

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

**Sonia's story**  
The Italian girl who married Rajiv Gandhi and became part of an Indian dynasty

**Living again**  
How the bereaved families and victims of the Harrods bomb have rebuilt their lives

**Money talk**  
Last word on the City revolution from Walter B. Ristow, retiring head of Citibank

**Tartan Cheddar**  
Philip Howard sniffs out Britain's top cheese in Scotland

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by two winners yesterday. Mr John Laws of Pimlico, London, and Miss Susan Cornish of Fremantle, Southampton, each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 23; how to play, information service, back page.

## EEC reveals car price strategy

EEC Commissioners have announced measures to ensure that from January 1 the price of similar models of cars does not vary by more than 12 per cent between Community countries. The ruling was welcomed by the Consumers' Association.

## Cuts 'conceded'

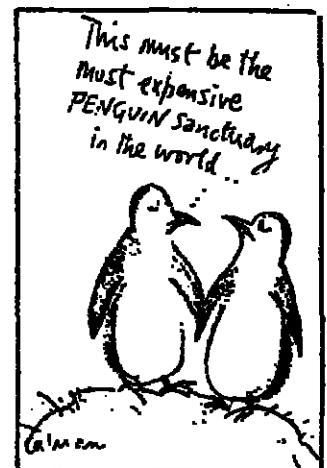
Mr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, said the Government had conceded rate support grant cuts of £117.8 million for 16 Conservative-controlled counties. Page 2

## Mauritania coup

President Haidalla of Mauritania, ousted in an overnight coup, arrived in Brazzaville, the Congo capital, from the Franco-African summit in Burundi. Earlier story, page 6

## Surplus schools

About 600 schools need to be closed by 1990 because of falling pupil numbers, the Audit Commission for Local Authorities said. Page 3



## Falklands doubt

Britain should adopt a more positive tone towards Argentina over the Falklands, the Commons foreign affairs committee said. But it failed to agree on both countries' legal claims. Page 5

## Boxing ban

The Boxing Board of Control will ban block bookings of dates and halls by promoters, a move which could change the structure of British boxing. Page 24

**Leading page, 15**  
Leading articles: Medical advertising; North London Polytechnic; Samuel Johnson Letters; On housing, from Mr David Winnick, MP, and others; motorway safeguard, from Mr A. K. McCombie; voting rights, from Mr C. Tugendhat and others. Books, page 8

James Fenton on the letters of D. H. Lawrence; Nicholas Shakespeare reviews fiction, and Tim Heald thrillers; Sir Roy Strong on ecclesiastical dress; Patrick Garland reviews the Mitfords. Features, pages 10, 14

Mickal Gorbachov in perspective: Poland three years after martial law; disinterment a Pitt; danger, builders at the move. Spectrum: why Wogan is on the move. Obituary, page 16  
Mr Will Paynter, Mr Victor Shkolovsky  
Classified advertising, pages 26-30

Crème de la Crème: appointments

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# Walker agrees to meet TUC team on pit peace talks

● Moves to end the miners' strike have resumed with the Government's agreement to meet TUC leaders today or tomorrow to discuss the dispute  
● Local authorities have given large amounts of money to striking miners, including additions to social service assistance and donations to support groups (page 2)

● The old argument within the NUM about its constitution has been brought to a head by the Nottinghamshire moderates' "union within a union" move (page 2)

● Yesterday saw the first coal produced in Yorkshire since the dispute began. Production also began later at a second pit in the county (back page)

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

New moves to end the 40-week pit strike got under way last night after the Government agreed to meet a deputation of TUC leaders to talk about the dispute.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, is to meet the seven-member TUC liaison group, that has been monitoring developments in the strike today or tomorrow. He will come under pressure to "facilitate a resumption of negotiations between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers."

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, was in touch with Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, yesterday afternoon. He said afterwards: "There are a lot of ideas around. We shall be probing every good idea."

The board was unaware of the initiative until it was announced yesterday evening. Mr Michael Eaton, chief spokesman for the board reacted cautiously to the announcement, reiterating the board's formal negotiating position. "If the TUC have persuaded the NUM to recognize the fact that the cost of production is a factor in colliery closures, then we have always expressed a

willingness to talk," Mr Eaton said. Privately, the board's managers remain to be persuaded that the miners have shifted from their hard-line strategy.

However, the TUC team believes that there is scope for a resumption of negotiation, based on the miners' union's formula that the board should recognize that it cannot carry out its original intention to shut down four million tonnes of capacity in the current financial year, which ends on March 1.

Instead of withdrawing the pit closure programme, the miners argue that the board should "not proceed" with it, and should make future colliery shutdowns consistent with the provisions of the 1974 Plan for Coal.

At the end of their five-hour meeting yesterday the TUC group reaffirmed its determination to help in finding a negotiated settlement and, in line with that, had arranged an "urgent meeting" with Mr Walker "at which the TUC representatives will press the Government to do everything open to them to facilitate a resumption of negotiations between the National Coal

Board and the National Union of Mineworkers". But if bilateral talks between the miners and the board do take place as a result of the latest initiative the TUC will not supervise the detailed conduct of the talks.

The board was somewhat taken aback by the TUC's going over its head directly to the minister responsible for the coal industry, but if there is any serious prospect of the union making sufficient concessions to restart negotiations, the board will pocket its pride and go back into direct discussions with miners' leaders.

The miners' union national executive meeting in Sheffield today will be given a report on the latest steps to restart the peace process. Mr Scargill is expected to be absent, appearing in court in Rotherham to answer a charge of obstruction remaining from the days of the mass pickets at Orgreave coking plant in South Yorkshire.

## Stores to stay shut on Sunday

By Staff Reporters

Debenhams and the Habitat Mothercare group yesterday dropped their plans to open stores in England and Wales on the two Sundays left before Christmas. Debenhams said it had been influenced by the Prime Minister's unequivocal statement in the Commons this week condemning moves before Parliament had dealt with the Audit Committee's recommendations that Sunday trading should be allowed.

Debenhams added that it wanted to protect employees against "unprecedented" legal moves threatened by some local authorities against its stores. The local authorities had applied for injunctions to stop the proposed Debenhams openings. The applications, due to be heard tomorrow, were by Guildford, Nuneaton, Bedford, Nottingham, Derby, Plymouth, Chelmsford, Norwich, Southampton and Ipswich.

Sir Terence Conran of Habitat Mothercare said last night that his group would cease Sunday trading to stop the issue from becoming "a political weapon". He expected "a prompt" response by the Government, however.

## Labour NEC backs study of Militant

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Labour Party's centre-right was claiming victory over the left last night after the ruling national executive committee agreed to set up a working party to study the Militant Tendency. The NEC committee for discussion next month, after the left failed by 18 votes to shelve it altogether, a vote cited by the centre-right as proving a strong desire for further action on Militant.

A comfortable majority is expected both in committee and the full NEC next month for the study, which is likely to be completed by Easter. It supporters believe that by showing graphically how the tendency operates, and how its objectives differ so radically from Labour's, local parties can be encouraged to out-manoeuvre, out-organize and ultimately defeat them. Mr Kinnock told the NEC its aim would be to educate the party.

The NEC also went close to backing a motion which would effectively have committed the next Labour Government to reimbursing the NUM for fines incurred as a result of legal actions against it by its own members.

At the urging of Mr Kinnock, the motion was referred to the party's home policy committee for discussion, by 15 votes to 13.

## Exodus of fear from Bhopal

From Trevor Fishlock, Bhopal

Thousands of people fled in an "exodus of fear" from this disaster city yesterday, frightened by plans to make its killer chemical safe.

They crammed into buses, trains and cars. Last night there were long lines of vehicles at petrol pumps. "This is an exodus of fear," said Mr Raj Singh, a factory secretary. "People are stunned by disaster. They do not trust anyone in authority."

"The place is full of rumours. People are helpless and you cannot blame them for wanting to run."

Their fear sprang from the announcement that part of the Union Carbide chemical plant will go into temporary production from Sunday, so that 15

tonnes of the deadly gas that killed at least 2,000 and injured more than 50,000 can be made safe.

The authorities say there is no danger, and no need to evacuate. Mr Arjun Singh, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, said he would demonstrate his confidence by being in the plant when the operation starts.

Even so, the authorities have said they will provide transport and camps for people who wish to leave.

Unconfirmed reports are circulating in Bhopal that chemical warfare experts have arrived in the city to study the after effects of the lethal gas (Our Foreign Staff writes).

An Agence France Presse

report quotes unnamed sources as saying the experts from the United States, West Germany, Britain and Canada - are genuine doctors involved in defence research.

● SHEFFIELD: Eight people last night were barricaded in an office of Union Carbide's British headquarters here in a protest over "the activities of all multinational corporations."

Police let the protesters stay after they undertook not to cause damage and said they would leave today.

● WASHINGTON: Union Carbide's methyl isocyanate plant in West Virginia was pronounced safe yesterday by a union official and the head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

## French connection in Mirror ownership

By Philip Robinson and William Kay

The ultimate ownership of Mirror Group Newspapers, for which Mr Robert Maxwell paid £100 million in July, is now in French hands. The true proprietor is the family interests of Mr Maxwell's French wife, Elizabeth.

Mr Maxwell has argued strongly that he is merely the publisher of MGN whose titles include the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror*, *Sunday People* and *Sunday Life*. The *Daily Mirror* has "Forward with Britain" included in its masthead.

On the front page of the first issue after Reed International sold MGN to Mr Maxwell, he

was described as both publisher and proprietor.

Mr Maxwell took control of MGN after making two offers to Reed International. Reed had intended to float MGN as a separate company on the Stock Exchange under the chairmanship of Mr Clive Thornton, former head of the Abbey National Building Society.

Mr Maxwell's successful £100 million offer was made through his Pergamon Press Ltd, a private family company whose parent is the Liechtenstein-registered Pergamon Holding Foundation. Under company rules the Liechten-

stein authorities are not obliged to disclose the ownership of companies registered

However, sources close to Mr Maxwell have confirmed that the foundation owners are Mrs Maxwell's family inter-

ests. The connection goes back more than 10 years when Mr Maxwell was involved in a

takeover battle with the American company Leasco, then headed by Mr Saul Steinberg, the American financier. French ownership has been unearthed during another takeover battle, this time for John Waddington, maker of the Monopoly game.

Although Mr Maxwell conceded defeat of his £44 million takeover last night, Waddington has threatened to use British law to disenfranchise Mr Maxwell's 23 per cent stake in Waddington unless true ownership of the foundation is disclosed.



Serene Lyons with her mother yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos)

## Baby of 10 months gets pacemaker

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The heart of a girl aged 10 months is beating normally with the help of the smallest electronic pacemaker implanted in Britain.

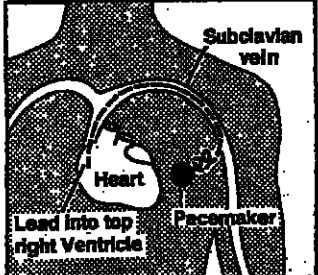
The operation was the third which the baby, Serene Lyons, had undergone. The first was to mend a defect in the aorta and the second to close a hole and repair a valve in other chambers of the heart.

When Serene's mother, Mrs Susan Lyons, brought her back to the Brompton Hospital, London, yesterday for a check-up, from their home in Mersey Bay, Kent, Dr Elliott Shimboune, paediatric cardiac consultant, described her progress as marvellous.

He called the operation to insert the pacemaker, perfected and performed by Dr David Ward, the hospital's senior registrar, a remarkable surgical development.

Dr Shimboune said it was possible that as Serene's heart grew stronger it might be possible to do without the electronic aid.

Although small - 41mm by



62mm by 6mm thick and weighing 28 grams - it is not the pacemaker's size that is the main advance in treatment.

The innovation is the way in which the instrument is connected to the heart. In addition, it can be reprogrammed by radio control, should Serene need a different pattern of stimulus as she begins to toddle and then run about.

The usual method of connection is to make an incision through which the lead from the pacemaker is attached to the outside of the heart. Dr Ward used a surgically less invasive procedure, but a much more intricate one in a baby.

He threaded the Teflon-coated silver wire, 3mm thick, through the subclavian vessel at the top of the arm into the right ventricle of the heart. A piece of the wire was protruding from its coating to penetrate the wall of the heart chamber.

Continued on back page, col 6

## Police hold two as Durban sit-in ends

From Michael Hornsby, Durban

Three leading South African anti-apartheid campaigners left the haven of the British Consulate in Durban yesterday, where they sought refuge 91 days ago, and two of them were at once arrested and charged with high treason, an offence which carries a maximum penalty of death.

Mr Archie Gumede, an elderly African who is one of three national presidents of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a multi-racial alliance of opposition groups, and Mr Paul Dlamini, a senior member of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) a UDF affiliate, were arrested inside the Barclays Bank Building in which the consulate is located.

Police officers were waiting for the two men as they stepped out of a lift on the ground floor. They were taken away through a side door into a cordoned-off back street out of sight of a crowd of several thousand people of all races calling for their release outside the main entrance.

The third member of the consulate sit-in, Mr Billy Nair, another senior NIC member, was allowed out, and was borne away on the shoulders of his supporters as the crowd, chanting "UDF, UDF" and waving clenched fists in the air, surged down the street after them.

All three men complained of "psychological warfare" used against them by the British Government, which had constantly put pressure on them to leave the consulate. They said, however, that conditions had been "bearable", despite their being kept in a single room.

Continued on back page, col 5

## Night ban on London juggernauts

By Colin Hughes

Juggernaut lorries are to be banned at night and weekends from the roads of Greater London, by what councillors claim is Britain's "biggest-ever traffic order".

The decision, taken yesterday, will come into force next June, unless the Government succeeds in forcing a public inquiry to challenge and prevent the move.

The ban includes all heavy goods vehicles of more than 16.5 tonnes in laden weight, effectively three-axle articulated lorries, except those which are granted an exemption licence.

Exemptions have been included mainly to enable lorries carrying fresh food to deliver to markets. The ban covers the 610 square miles of Greater London between 9pm and 7am, and from 1pm on Saturdays, except for a handful of major trunk roads which will remain open to heavy goods traffic.

At present the council estimates that more than 25,000 lorries use London streets at night because clearer roads mean they can move through the capital more quickly than in daylight. The ban is being imposed to ease the stress on at least 250,000 London residents who the council believe suffer regular sleep disturbance because of the din.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, has said he will contest the decision. GLC lawyers have advised that councillors are within their powers to issue the order, but Mr Ridley believes he can force a public inquiry.

If he succeeds, the inquiry is likely to be brief, since the GLC has spent more than three years compiling evidence in support of the proposal.

## Thatcher favours some ads on BBC

By Julian Haviland and David Hewson

The Prime Minister is in favour of advertising being carried on a limited number of BBC television and radio programmes, it was stated on her behalf yesterday.

The disclosure of what was said to be Mrs Margaret Thatcher's long-held view, was made, by apparent coincidence, on the day that the BBC opened a campaign to increase the annual colour television licence fee by more than 40 per cent to £65.

Within a few hours of the BBC's new target being made public, MPs were reporting telephone calls from constituents saying that the proposed increase was excessive. One Conservative MP said that reaction from his constituents suggested that the Government would be most unwise to allow the full increase.

Many Conservatives were preparing to urge the Prime Minister and Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, who has the formal responsibility, to examine closely recent increases in BBC staff levels and rates of pay.

Official sources yesterday stressed that the question of whether the BBC should advertise was not under consideration by Ministers, and would not be considered in the context of the present application for an increased licence fee. But the Cabinet's collective thinking more often than not tends to accord with the Prime Minister's opinion, and therefore foreshadow the future shape of broadcasting.

Mr Stuart Young, chairman of the BBC, revealed yesterday that a £65 licence fee had been requested, at the start of a campaign to convince the public it was the best bargain in Britain.

The Government is unlikely to reach a decision until shortly before the present arrangement expires. The BBC's decision to go public has been frowned on by the Home Office. Traditionally, the licence for negotiations take place in private, but Mr Young cited a speech by the Home Secretary, calling on broadcasters to justify themselves to the public, as evidence that an open campaign was warranted.

The corporation's openness will not extend to publishing the value for money survey of the BBC being carried out by outside accountants at the request of the Home Secretary.

Mr Young said that the survey, which was due to be delivered at the end of this month, might contain confidential material it would be inappropriate to make public. Four separate surveys were being carried out, of which the Post Markwick investigation was one.

The BBC was aware the new licence fee might prove difficult for the needy, said Mr Young.

Not many people know that when the Martians land in Huddersfield they'll be reading bumf - it's the best medicine

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT! Michael Caine's almanac of amazing information £6.95

WHEN THE MARTIANS LAND IN HUDDERSFIELD Mike Harding's Christmas annual for adults £5.95

BUMF Alan Coren's dazzling new collection - full of comic feats £5.95

THE BEST MEDICINE Graeme Garden's book of medical humour £5.95

Best selling humour from Robson this Christmas

Robson Books







## 600 schools must close to save money and standards, auditors say

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Hundreds of schools in England and Wales need to be closed by the end of the 1980s in line with falling pupil numbers, otherwise the quality of education will suffer and rates of expenditure will be unnecessarily high.

The warning is in a report published today from the Audit Commission for Local Authorities, an independent body set up two years ago to improve local government economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The commission says that the price of doing nothing about non-teaching costs in secondary schools is unacceptably high.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF CLOSING SURPLUS SCHOOLS

Assessment (pupils)	Total	Annual average	Annual savings (£m)
220	44	43	88
440	88	86	176
660	132	129	264
880	176	172	352
1,100	220	218	440

### SECONDARY SCHOOL ROLLS 1981-1986

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Potential surplus places on Jan 5	357	585	640	748	861	899
Taken out of use (cumulative)						
- actual	35	70	120	222	292	357
- planned	40	93	150	222	292	357

## 'Homework concept out of date'

By Our Education Correspondent

The amount of homework given to pupils and the time taken by conscientious pupils to do it can lead to excessive tiredness, according to the National Association of Head Teachers.

In a document published today the association, which has 20,500 members, adds that homework is in part something handed down from public and grammar schools to all schools, as a way of "keeping children occupied" or "passing the time", albeit usefully.

On the plus side, it argues that homework can be a good way of reinforcing what has been learnt in school, and that it is important for young people to learn to work on their own.

Many avoid doing homework, or do it on buses, at breakfast or while watching television.

Many resent having so much homework at secondary age.

Comprehensive schools are criticized by school inspectors for failing to encourage pupils to talk, to develop arguments and articulate ideas. The criticism comes in their review of the reports they have written on schools between January 1983 and May 1984.

Primary schools give children a limited range of written work, concentrate too much on computation at the expense of practical work in mathematics and provide little experimental work in science, according to the review.

## Thatcher rejects tax on new housing

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher gave an assurance yesterday to home owners and house builders that mortgage interest relief would continue and that the Government would not introduce value-added tax on new housing.

The Prime Minister speaking at the National House-Builders Council's annual lunch in London, answered fears that mortgage relief might be reduced or abolished by saying that as long as she was Prime Minister or a member of the Conservative Government it would continue.

As for tax on new housing, she assured her audience that the Government had no plans to introduce it, as suggested by the EEC, and added: "We are resisting vigorously the commission's attack on zero-rating."

## Garages to get fairer AA symbols

The Automobile Association is dropping its sparrow symbols in the new year. They have been used since 1968 to denote AA approved garages.

The sparrow, which range from one to three, awarded this year to 4,300 garages, are being misinterpreted by motorists as symbols of workmanship rather than the intended meaning of facilities offered.

This has resulted in an unfair reflection on the smaller, efficient garages, the AA said. Instead of sparrow, a standard "AA Approved" sign will be displayed outside garages.

## Plan to ease redress for victims

Easier ways of compensating victims of crimes were proposed yesterday by the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Those suffering physical injury and deprived of any other redress should be able to seek compensation through the small claims court, the MPs say. The victim should be able to apply to the court's registrar to have his claim assessed with a view to repayment out of Government funds.

## Government aid for wheel loss study denied

The Government is refusing to support a £70,000 investigation into the reasons for wheel losses on commercial vehicles, which cause an average of one accident a day.

Road transport companies have put up £12,000 to launch two research projects on the losses, but they are unlikely to be completed without funding from the Department of Transport.

## Novelist 'killed old blind woman who wanted to die'

A children's novelist quietly killed a blind and lonely woman, aged 83, who wanted to commit suicide, the Central Criminal Court heard yesterday.

Mrs Helen Hough, aged 59, provided her with certain tablets and placed a plastic bag over the woman's head when she did not die after several hours. Mr Roy Amiot, for the prosecution, said.

Mrs Hough allegedly told police: "I was tempted to leave her, hoping she would die. I waited about two hours but she was still breathing, although deeply unconscious, and finally picked up this wretched plastic bag and put it over her head and held her hand."

She allegedly said the woman's breathing became distressed and she finally died.

The dead woman, Miss Anna Johnson Harding, of Fitzroy Road, Primrose Hill, had decided to commit suicide by a scheme suggested by a local voluntary euthanasia society.

Mrs Helen Hough yesterday told the court she had left a suicide note saying she was taking her own life.

Mrs Hough, off Ivor Street, Regent's Park, pleaded not guilty to the murder of Mrs Harding on November 4 last year.

The trial continues today.

## Court bans peer

The Earl of Shaftesbury, aged 46, of St Giles, Wimborne, Dorset, was fined £200 and banned from driving for 15 months at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, after he admitted driving his car having drunk excess alcohol.

## Campaign for clarity clearly succeeding

By Michael Hornell

Written English is getting plainer, notwithstanding the smoky obscurities which continue to darken the corridors of form-riddled bureaucratic life as we know it in Britain.

This is the opinion of Mr John Ward, a National Consumer Council executive, who announced yesterday the Plain English Campaign's annual awards.

The campaign's five-year operation to remove gobbledegook from the language appears to be succeeding, for not only were the Golden Bull body-prize winners yesterday less amusing than usual but among the six recipients of awards for plain English were two government ministers representing departments once the Aztec Sallies of obscurity hunters.

Miss Julie Walters, the actress, needed some of the skills of an "educated Rita" in deciphering the plain from the obscure when she presented the awards at the Waldorf Hotel, London.

Mr Timothy Reinton, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, received his plain English award on behalf of the Central Office of Information for an illuminating leaflet to holidaymakers about the uses of British consuls.

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State at the Department of Employment, received his for the Manpower Services Commission's helpful guide on sponsored training. It was, he said, a far cry from his early days as a minister, when civil servants presented him with the following briefing:

"There is no need to amend section 4A of the 1964 Act to supply the four new subsections introduced by subsection 2 of the Bill to replace subsection 2 of section 7 because subsection 4 of section 4A already refers back to subsection 2-6 of section 7. However... etc."



Plainly pleased: Miss Julie Walters preparing to release a cloud of "hot-air" balloons before the awards ceremony.

## Teacher tells court he never supplied drugs to his pupils

A schoolteacher accused of selling drugs to teenagers told a crown court jury yesterday that he had sometimes smoked "a joint" of cannabis in a park during school lunchbreaks, but had never taken drugs on school premises.

Richard Catherwood, aged 39, added: "I have never supplied a schoolchild under my care or in my control with any drug."

Mr Catherwood, who has been suspended from his job as an inner London Education Authority supply teacher since his arrest in June, was giving evidence at Inner London Crown Court on the third day of his trial.

Yesterday Mr Catherwood, of Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich, south London, was cleared of one of the charges against him, supplying cannabis resin, after Judge Suzanne Norwood instructed the jury that there was insufficient evidence.

He had denied a further six charges, including supplying and offering to supply LSD, cocaine and cannabis resin, and possessing controlled drugs with intent to supply.

He has pleaded guilty to three charges of supplying cannabis resin and unlawfully possessing LSD and cannabis. The offences are alleged to have taken place between January 1983 and June 1984.

The court has been told that Lee Sawyer, aged 16, fell to his death from a high-rise block of flats in East Dulwich and was found to have taken LSD before the incident. It has been alleged that Mr Catherwood supplied the drug he had taken.

Mr Catherwood told the jury yesterday that he had been educated at university in Belfast. He had three A levels and a Bachelor of Arts degree.

He had been a supply teacher of art in the south London Borough of Southwark from 1979 until his arrest.

Mr Catherwood said: "I am making no secret of the fact that I am a regular, and have been since I was 20 or 21, user of cannabis and have used on many occasions LSD. Cocaine is something I have tried."

He said that had been before various courts on five occasions for drug offences.

During his early years he had been "wandering as a busker" but later settled down to a teaching career.

Mr Catherwood denied allegations by two boys who gave evidence that it was LSD supplied by him that caused Lee's death.

"Since they supplied acid (LSD) on their own admission to Lee Sawyer I can see them trying to put it on someone else," he said.

Mr Catherwood said that when he heard that the boy had plunged from a balcony he was shocked. He had never heard of anyone jumping from a high place after taking LSD.

The hearing continues today.

## Apology over cot death

A London coroner yesterday criticized the view that most cot death babies were killed by their parents, and apologized to a young mother for holding an inquest into the death of her baby daughter.

Joanna Fernandes, aged four months, died in her mother's bed after an early morning feed. Mrs Frances Fernandes, of Old Kent Road, south-east London, told the court in Southwark that she had put Joanna in bed. When she woke up the baby was dead.

Dr Gordon Davies, the coroner, said that the vast majority of cot death babies were well looked after by loving parents.

He recorded a verdict of natural causes due to sudden infant death syndrome.

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For example, if you deposit £1,167 before the end of December 1984 and keep it in for the whole of 1985, you will earn the full tax-free benefit of £70. Husbands and wives are each entitled to this amount of tax exemption.

You get a guaranteed rate of interest and ready access to your money. To earn the guaranteed rate of 6% keep at least £500 invested from 31 December 1984 to 1 January 1986. Additional deposits will also earn the 6% rate for each whole month of 1985 that the money is earning interest. (Balances of less than £500 will earn 3%.)

Act by 31 December. To qualify for this attractive 1985 opportunity, invest before the end of December 1984. You can open a National Savings Ordinary Account by sending the coupon, which must arrive by 31 December, with your cheque made payable to "National Savings" and crossed "A/c Payee" to: National Savings Bank, Glasgow G58 1SB. First class post recommended. Or you can make your deposit at the post office. In this case, if you pay by cheque make it out to "The Post Office."



To: National Savings Bank (Dept. DD1), Glasgow G58 1SB. 72

I wish to open an NSB Ordinary Account.

SURNAME: MRS/MISS

FORENAMES: (in full)

DATE OF BIRTH: DATE MONTH YEAR

(Essential for children under 7 years)

ADDRESS: (in full)

AMOUNT DEPOSITED: POUNDS PENCE

I declare that the information given by me on this form is correct.

USUAL SIGNATURE: (If child under 7, signature of person opening account)

If you hold any other NSB Account(s), please quote account number(s):



PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 12 1984

Disarmament talks Milk quotas Bishop's plea

Commentary

# When British nuclear forces would count in arms negotiations

## ARMS CONTROL

If, as is hoped, substantial progress is made in disarmament talks between Mr Shultz, the American Secretary of State, and Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, for substantial reductions in nuclear weapons, Britain would review the position of its own nuclear forces.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that at the conclusion of Commons exchanges about talks between Mr Shultz, Leader of the Opposition, and the Soviet leader, and about negotiations between the US and the USSR over nuclear weapons and military use of outer space.

Mr Luce said: We have consistently supported the United States in its willingness to negotiate without preconditions, balanced and verifiable agreements on limiting nuclear weapons.

We therefore welcomed the announcement that Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko are to meet in January. We firmly hope that that will lead to agreement on how to carry forward the negotiations covering both nuclear and outer space questions.

Mr Gerald Malone (Aberdeen, South, C) does Mr Luce believe that the recent Soviet offer not to target this country with nuclear weapons, and to reduce the number of medium range nuclear weapons, secured by the Leader of the Opposition, is anything but helpful and simply amounts to the United Kingdom renouncing all nuclear weapons unilaterally. It replaces real weapons with cardboard ones and that says all that needs to be said about Labour policy.

Mr Luce: Insofar as it is possible to understand the offer of the Soviet Union to Mr Kinnock - that in return for us renouncing our independent nuclear deterrent and getting rid of our nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union would reduce proportionately, by the same number of

weapons - that by comparison with the number of their weapons would be a tiny, minimal reduction.

Mr Russell Johnston (Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, L) is the Government prepared to involve the independent British deterrent in such negotiations?

Mr Luce: The first thing, obviously, is that there is to be a preparatory meeting between Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko with a view to discussing the parameters of how to review the whole question of nuclear weapons and arms activity in outer space. That is the purpose of the meeting.

We hope that it will lead to discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union, which will lead in turn to a reduction in nuclear weapons.

The Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey Howe) has repeatedly made clear that if there is clear evidence that both countries agree to substantial agreement on substantial



Blaker: Ours equals 3% of Russian arsenal

reductions in nuclear weapons and there is no increase in defence capability, we shall, of course, look at the situation of the British deterrent force.

Sir Peter Blaker (Blackpool, South, C) will the minister be even more specific about the relationship between our deterrent and the size of the Soviet strategic force?

The size of our nuclear force

# Councils should meet targets

## WELSH RATES

Local authorities might have to make difficult choices in determining their spending priorities in order to meet the targets being set by the Government, but those targets were achievable, Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said in the Commons when announcing the Welsh rate support grant settlement for 1985-86.

Aggregate expenditure grant would be £1,014.2 million and the amount available for distribution to local authorities was £810.6 million, he said.

He believed it was a fair settlement and owed much to the restraint exercised by a majority of Welsh local authorities.

There are, unfortunately, a small minority who persist in spending in excess of their targets. I confirm therefore that I am setting for 1985-86 and grant penalties for exceeding those targets. I have retained the same basic system for determining next year's expenditure targets as that used in the present year, but increased the weighting given to the grant related expenditure component.

The targets may require local authorities to make difficult choices in determining their spending priorities, but the targets are, I believe, achievable by all authorities. Every authority's target gives a cash increase in its current expenditure; the minimum increase is 2 per cent and the maximum 4 per cent, after making allowance for the national insurance, surcharge and further education changes.

In addition, for authorities spending at or below target in 1984-85, I have added one-half of 1 per cent to their current expenditure total. Thus the maximum current expenditure increase for such authorities is 4.5 per cent, in line with the projected rate of inflation for the economy as a whole.

In aggregate, the targets I am announcing today are £7.6 million higher than the provisional sum notified to authorities in the summer. The increase largely reflects the use of fixed interest rates, and a slightly lower assumption for council house rents.

The incentive for local authorities with low rateable resources to achieve their targets has, in the past, been considerably reduced because I placed a limit on grant holdback for such authorities. I am, therefore, this year reducing this limitation by 50 per cent.

Block grant will be distributed in accordance with the formulae agreed by the Welsh local authority associations. I have decided to retain the existing block grant mechanism which determines the distributions of block grant and the same safety net for limiting grant losses associated with changes in GRE - a maximum 4p loss at the county level and 1p loss at the district level.

One innovation I am introducing is that the Government will be reviewing the targets for 1986-87 and 1987-88. This will assist local authorities in their planning. I must emphasize, however, that these are indeed indications and circumstances in which the Government has to review them cannot be ruled out.

Whether these indicative targets will need to be transformed into formal guidance figures depends to a very large extent on the authorities' performance next year. I have told the Consultative Council that if budget returns show that authorities, individually and collectively, are on course to spend in line with the targets, I am reviewing alternative means of containing expenditure and encouraging moderate rate increases is possible for future years.

Mr Jones: He is being very coy about clearly expressing a view on the effect of this settlement on the standard and depth of local government services. He is placing local authorities under intolerable

pressure. A typical Welsh district might have to make real savings of up to £250,000 to achieve a district rate increase in line with inflation.

Penalties have again been increased. The ratepayers' contribution has again been increased, while central Government's contribution has decreased.

Mr Edwards: We have increases in relevant expenditure and increases in the grant of 5 per cent more than the budget expenditure in the current year, and I do not believe anyone could say that represents a harsh regime.

All the indications I have are that the majority, certainly, of the councils will meet their targets or are close to meeting them.

We will agree targets are not the ideal system and if we can continue the progress made so far in meeting the Government's objectives I hope we can move away altogether from a system of targets. We are on the road to achieving that.

Sir Anthony Meyer (North West Chwyd, C) While there is still determination that all waste should be cut, there is increasing anxiety lest essential services might start to suffer if economies are pursued any further.

Mr Edwards: I do not think at a time when we are offering local authorities the ability to increase their expenditure by slightly more than the inflation rate without imposing severe rate burdens there is any need for the kind of suffering he suggests might happen.

Mr Michael Foot (Blenau Gwent, Lab) One of the heaviest burdens that most local authorities in Wales have to bear is that imposed by persistent mass unemployment. There should be some arrangement whereby the scale of unemployment is taken into account.

Mr Edwards: The target for Blaenau Gwent is well above the estimated inflation rate. Looking at the targets per head set for English and Welsh counties, all the Welsh counties are in the top 11 in the list for the whole of England and Wales.

This suggests they are getting treatment that compares favourably with comparable authorities facing comparable difficulties elsewhere.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Local Government Bill, committee, second day. Lords (3): Valerie Mary Hill and Alan Monk (Marriage Enabling) Bill, second reading. Debate on EEC finance.

## Quotas must be observed fairly

### MILK QUOTAS

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that the Government was determined to ensure that the milk quota system was implemented fairly and that the quota was observed.

Mr Jopling reported to MPs that EEC Agricultural Ministers had agreed, with Denmark abstaining, to invite the Commission to allow postponement of the first levy payment until the end of the marketing year.

Mr John said Britain was in danger of being the only member state to implement the system properly. Britain's dairy industry (he added) is in total confusion. At the very least this further decision will prolong their uncertainty. This decision, coupled with the failure of two countries to try even to implement the quotas, and the latest figures that five countries are over their quotas, will lead many people to doubt whether they will ever be properly implemented.

Our dairy farmers have already made sacrifices. Mr Jopling replied that the EEC Commission was considering requests for a further delay in the levy. First reports suggested that it had decided to make no change to the regulations but he could not anticipate its formal response.

Mrs Elaine Keef-Brown (Lancaster, C) asked if Mr Jopling was making any arrangements for flexibility between direct sales and the milk roundsmen. Mr Jopling said this was the most clear case of unsatisfactory rules within the milk levy arrangements. Regrettably he had raised the matter to no effect at every Agricultural Council since June. But he would vigorously continue to press the matter.

Sir Peter Mills (Devon, West and Torridge, C) said Mr Jopling should put down a marker when he next discussed milk imports in the EEC. They would be a serious blow (he said) to Jack Jones's demand if imposed on top of the quotas.

## Urgent look at training

### UNEMPLOYMENT

The key to reducing unemployment could only be found by pursuing the Government's policies, Lord Young of Grafton, Minister without Portfolio, said in the Lords. This meant continuing to pursue the policy of reducing public expenditure, encouraging the growth of real jobs and returning to this country the spirit of enterprise so heavily extinguished by the heavy hand of state control which by 1979 had come to permeate almost every corner of the land.

Speaking in a debate in which the Opposition complained of the lack of urgency shown by the Government in tackling the unemployment problem and called for a statement of the positive steps to be taken to enable available labour to be used to meet undoubted national needs, he said the Government fully understood the need for effective investment if Britain's industries were to be able to match those of its foreign competitors.

However, it was absurd to suggest that spending yet more millions of taxpayers' money on major infrastructure projects was any answer to unemployment. The job creation effects would be much less than was imagined.

He was undertaking an urgent investigation into the whole range of the provision for employment training and payment of benefits to young people. The Youth Training Scheme had been a major milestone along that road. We owe it to our young people (he went on) to encourage its progress by all the means at our disposal.

We are (he continued) the only major European economy generating additional jobs. Only Australia, the United States and Canada are doing better. In the past 12 months

we have done better than Japan, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, France, Sweden, Norway and Spain. Our policies are working.

Lord Clewley of Penches, for the Opposition, who opened the debate, said the Government's medium-term financial strategy was not working. The economy was not responding to it. The Prime Minister's strength was her determination; her weakness was her change her policies or she must go.

The Government was to be condemned for operating unwelcome policies and for accepting, indeed creating, unemployment as a part of those policies. By so doing it had created a huge problem which could not be quickly or easily solved. The Opposition was asking for a clear and constructive start on the road back to full employment.

The warning lights were flashing for Britain. There was still time to change course. Lady Sear (L) said the likelihood of a return to full-time employment by people in the older age groups who had been

unemployed for one, two or three years was almost nil, however successful the Government's policies might be.

It would be a real economy, a cost-effective thing to do, to enable people in that category to earn far more than was permitted at present without losing their unemployment benefit. Savings in other directions would go a long way to offset the cost that would be involved.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Ronald Bowley, said he took no political line but the point was being reached "in the national conscience when the need for action about unemployment was seen by the majority as overwhelming and urgent."

Everyone wanted the burden of taxation on the lower paid lifted; the poverty trap was a menace. But fitting the threshold helped those without need as well as those in need. A simple increase in child benefit would do the job more precisely.

Lord Alport (C) said the price for fighting inflation was reflected in the miners' strike and in social unrest which might have very serious consequences for the cohesion of the nation before the end of the century.

If the Prime Minister and the Government continue with the present policies (he said) then the Prime Minister will end up destroying the party she leads and she will leave behind her anger and disillusion and a nation divided against itself and unable to move forward.

He would vote for the motion so no one could accuse him of speaking in coded terms. He did not want to say goodbye to a Conservative Government, but unless there was a change in direction, the electorate would say goodbye to the Prime Minister and her administration at the next General Election.

## Call for inquiry before councils go

### ABOLITION BILL

Government proposals to abolish the Greater London Council and six metropolitan county councils were being considered without merit, Mr Jack Jones, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, said when opening the committee stage of the local Government Bill.

He moved the first of a group of amendments which would delay abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties. The amendments variously provided that there should be a proper inquiry before abolition was proceeded with held by, for example, a Royal Commission or audit commission.

He said it was now notorious that the proposals in the Bill were cobbled together in haste without proper consultation or consideration, even within the Conservative Party, let alone outside it. It was against the express wishes of the policy committee of the Conservative Party.

Three men have been charged with Miss Bradley's murder. Police Constable Steven Padgug said: "Interpol have told us they are likely to remain in custody for two years before they come to trial."

The coroner, Dr Arthur Gordon Davis, returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

## Outer space to be discussed

### CIVIL DEFENCE

The Government believed urgent progress, if at all possible, must be made over arms control in outer space. Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during questions in the Commons.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, would be discussing this among other matters, with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev (a leading member of the Soviet Politburo) when he visited London next week.

Mr Luce said the Government was pleased that the Soviet Union had agreed to discuss outer space arms control with the United States. The Government was strongly committed to arms restraint policies in this area. Together with its allies, it would continue to make every effort to achieve progress in this sphere, but the need for Western patience and perseverance was as great as ever.

Mr Robert Banks (Harrrogate, C) said that the two super powers are at the start of a race to develop weapons in space at gigantic cost. Will he do all he can to improve understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union on the desirability of reaching agreement to ban all weapons in space? What is the Government's policy towards the United States strategic defence initiative?

Mr Luce: I agree with the urgent need to see measures agreed between East and West, and particularly between the United States and Soviet Union, for arms restraint in outer space. The Prime

### Commissioners defended

Britain's recently appointed EEC Commissioners, Lord Cockfield and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, were defended by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Sir Anthony Meyer (North West Chwyd, C) The French Government appointed as its two Commissioners are former foreign minister and a former finance minister.

If these are two important posts, would it not have been a good idea for persons of this quality to have been selected by us?

Mr Rifkind: Sir Anthony's remarks are unworthy.

I do not think he does any service to the United Kingdom to say their qualities are other than excellent.

### No-smoking campaign

## Tube train ban reinforces trend

### By David Cross

The imposition of an almost total smoking ban on London's Underground system is the latest step in the seemingly inexorable drive to turn Britain's public places into smokeless zones.

Although anti-smoking lobbies like ASH, Action on Smoking and Health, are highly critical of the shortage of non-smoking facilities, principally in restaurants and public houses, they concede that the introduction of smoking bans has accelerated markedly during the past four or five years. ASH attributes this largely to the increasing awareness and outspokenness among non-smokers of the dangers of inhaling tobacco smoke in the air.

British Rail, in particular, it says has been exemplary in its response to the wishes of non-smokers.

Last month it increased the non-smoking compartments on Inter City 125 trains from a ratio of 60 to 40 to 70 to 30, bringing them into line with suburban and short distance trains, where 75 per cent of compartments are for non-smokers.

Airlines and ferries vary greatly in providing for non-smokers. Loganair, the independent Scottish airline, bans smoking on all flights, while Air Algérie, the Algerian state airline, provides between four and six seats at the back of aircraft for non-smokers.

No-smoking seats in British Airways' planes range between 50 and 70 per cent of the number available, and on British Caledonian the figure is 75 per cent.

Sealink offers the best facilities for passengers on routes to France, Belgium and Holland, with about 60 per cent of seating in cabins, lounges, bars and restaurants set aside.

On public transport local authorities have introduced smoking restrictions or total smoking bans, in addition to London Transport. The Newcastle Metro bans smoking in its seven underground stations and on all trains (smoking is allowed on the 34 overground stations), while Glasgow has a total ban on its revamped underground system.

Plymouth, Brighton, Belfast, Aberdeen, and Darlington have introduced bans on buses, and some, like Cardiff, are operating experiments during which passengers are being asked not to

### Help available in time of national disaster

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Lady Tringham: He is not correct. The Civil Defence Act is confined to measures against enemy attack, but he does acknowledge that the planning staff of local authorities would undertake the coordination of plans in a peace-time emergency.

The Government intends to introduce legislation to enable civil defence resources to be used for this purpose. There is a Bill ready to be taken up as a private Member's Bill on this point. Perhaps he would care to do it?

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# Commons inquiry sheds doubt on Britain's legal claim to Falklands

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Britain's legal claim to the Falklands, which is at the heart of the centuries-old dispute with Argentina, is cast into doubt by the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee in a report published yesterday.

After inquiries into the two rival sovereignty claims, the all-party group of MPs says: "The historical and legal evidence demonstrates such areas of uncertainty that we are unable to reach a categorical conclusion on the legal validity of the historical claims of either country."

But the committee, whose Falklands investigation has taken two years, emphasises that much of the historical argument has been rendered less relevant by Argentina's "illegal resort to arms".

Without referring directly to Fortress Falklands, the MPs say the cost of defending the islands, £684 million this year and £552 million next year, will remain a substantial drain on the defence budget while the present policy continues, allowing for the savings brought about by the airport at Mount Pleasant.

"In broad terms it is costing us about one thousand times as much to defend each inhabitant of the Falklands as it costs us to defend each inhabitant of the UK."

Britain's unqualified refusal

since the conflict to discuss the sovereignty of the Falklands "undoubtedly" makes progress on issues such as bilateral relations more difficult. But, after a disagreement in the committee, the report says in the present situation "this policy is no doubt prudent".

Labour MPs wanted to describe such an attitude as "understandable" but were voted down by the Conservative majority.

The attitude of the Argentine democratic government under President Alfonsín towards negotiations on sovereignty is essentially no different to that of its predecessors, the MPs say.

"Such negotiations once begun, must lead eventually and inevitably to the relinquishment of the United Kingdom's claim to end administration of the Falklands."

Because questions of principle and national honour are at stake and feelings in Argentina, Britain and the Falklands are so intense, "the prospects for an early settlement of the sovereignty dispute itself are remote."

"All our evidence, has, in fact, reinforced the wisdom of the general approach now being adopted by HM Government, that progress should be made towards re-establishing practical and sensible arrangements for

relations between the two countries." The absence of normal diplomatic and commercial relations are not in the best interests of either country and will have to be rectified before long, the MPs say.

"Some kind of accommodation with Argentina is not only inevitable, in view of the cost of the present policy to the UK, but also desirable if the Falklands are to have any prospect of long-term economic prosperity and the political stability."

Although the committee says that Britain should not agree to the inclusion of the sovereignty issue in talks with Argentina "in the immediate future" it should be willing to discuss how progress can be made to try to find a negotiated settlement as requested by the United Nations.

The MPs recommend that Britain should announce it will lift the Falklands protection zone once Argentina formally declares an end to hostilities; undertakes progressively to reduce the size of the army, air force and navy presence in and around the islands; and announces publicly the non-sovereignty issues it is prepared to discuss with Britain.

Special Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Falkland Islands, volume 1, Command 268-1 (Stationery Office: £5.55).



Crime crackdown: A Mafia suspect chained to a policeman arriving at Turin airport. Judges in the city have issued 380 arrest warrants on Mafia-related charges.

## Mafia informers live in fear

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The increasingly successful Italian onslaught on the higher echelons of the Mafia has brought in its wake the problem of how to protect relatives of Mafia criminals who confess.

A group of investigators in Palermo responsible for some of the most dramatic arrests in recent weeks has sent an appeal to President Pertini and to the Government asking for adequate means of protecting "repentant" criminals and their families.

Their case has authoritative backing from no less "repentant" a criminal than Tommaso Buscetta, the first of the great figures in the Sicilian Mafia's history to offer testimony. His brother-in-law was murdered on Friday and he wrote to the President, expressing his disappointment that protection for members of his family had proved inadequate.

Naturally, the hope is strong that others will

continue to follow his example. That this hope is reasonable is shown by another huge series of arrests carried out on Tuesday in Catania, Rome, Turin and elsewhere on the instructions of Turin magistrates investigating the Mafia. They are known to have been helped by the confession of Salvatore Parisi, aged 30, a murderer from Catania who was arrested in Turin in September.

● MADRID: For the first time, the Spanish Supreme Court has ordered one of its own members, and a judge of a lower court, to stand trial, (Harry Debelius writes).

The Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that there was reasonable grounds for suspicion of criminal action by Justice Jaime Rodríguez Hernández and Judge Ricardo Varoa Cobos, in connection with the unexpected release of a member of the Mafia. The alleged offence was prevarication, specifically of deliberately perverting a miscarriage of justice.

## Moscow sends top man to mend fences in Peking

Peking (Reuters) - The Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, the highest-ranking Kremlin leader to visit China in 15 years, will arrive in Peking on December 21, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The trip replaces a visit planned for last May which Mr Arkhipov cancelled abruptly after President Reagan's China tour and renewed fighting on the Sino-Vietnamese border. It reflects a gradual improvement in relations between the estranged Communist giants.

Asian and Western diplomats said Moscow and Peking hoped to conclude a trade agreement for the period 1986-90 during Mr Arkhipov's visit.

The two sides have also identified about 30 factories where Soviet technicians would help to modernize plant installed during the period of Sino-Soviet friendship in the 1950s.

The Chinese Communist Party chairman, Mr Hu Yaobang said last month the two countries were considering establishing

some joint committees to promote trade, economic and technical cooperation.

The neighbours, which fell out over ideological differences in the late 1950s, completed a fifth round of talks on normalizing relations in October and agreed they both wanted to expand economic, trade, scientific, technological, cultural and sporting links. But political relations remain blocked.

Peking demands a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, reductions in Soviet forces along the Chinese border and an end to the Kremlin's support for Vietnam's presence in Cambodia as preconditions for better political ties.

Moscow accuses Peking of deviating from the true path of socialism, and says China is making unreasonable demands and is not really interested in improved relations.

Mr Arkhipov is likely to find Chinese leaders in an ebullient mood. His trip will follow closely on Mrs Thatcher's visit when she will sign an agreement on handing back Hong Kong.

## Talks with Tokyo too

Tokyo (Reuters) - Japan and the Soviet Union opened three days of economic cooperation talks yesterday, the first since 1979, and chief delegates called for improved economic ties.

The Soviet Vice-Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Vladimir Sushkov, heading a 70-member delegation, told the opening

session of the ninth meeting of the Japan-Soviet economic cooperation committee that both sides should try to improve relations.

The annual committee meetings were suspended in 1979 after Moscow's military intervention in Afghanistan.

### The Singapore election

## Opposition puts up 48 candidates

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

The opposition facing Mr Lee Kuan Yew's People's Action Party in Singapore's election next week was revealed yesterday when eight rival parties nominated a total of 48 candidates to stand against the PAP.

The close of nominations, which included three independents, left the PAP unopposed in 30 constituencies in an enlarged parliament of 79 seats, and most party officials appear confident that on December 22 it will secure a fifth successive electoral clean sweep.

Nevertheless, the election will be watched for any sign that voters - and in particular the young - are disgruntled with the PAP's authoritarian style of government. If, as some knowledgeable sources are suggesting, the PAP lost two or perhaps even three seats, it would represent a significant rebuff for controversial social policies raised by Mr Lee recently.

To the fore in yesterday's nomination process was the Workers' Party, led by the island's only opposition MP Mr Ben Jeyaretnam, which will be putting up 15 candidates.

The Anson seat, which Mr Jeyaretnam won at a by-election in 1981 to break what had in effect become one-party rule for

13 years, will be a crucial barometer of opinion. The PAP has gone all-out to regain the seat.

At yesterday's ceremony, supporters cheered their candidate, Mr Ng Pock Too, a parliamentary secretary to Mr Lee, and chanted "PAP for Anson".

Mr Jeyaretnam apart, the odds are heavily against the opposition's efforts to dent the PAP's stranglehold on parliament. Only 10 days have been allowed for campaigning and the PAP's opponents lack leadership, money and manpower.

The one thing they share is the conviction that the PAP's tentacles intrude into the life of all citizens and must be cut back. One WP slogan is "Wake up to your freedom, it's time".

The other party whose performance will be closely monitored is the Singapore Democratic Party. The SDP is fielding only four candidates, but Mr Chiam See Tong, its secretary-general, is an articulate critic of government who observers believe might win a place.

Other parties fielding candidates include the Singapore United Front (13), the United People's Front (8) and the Barisan Socialis (4).

## East Germans will fast to aid asylum plea

Bonn-Some 73 East Germans still seeking asylum in the West German embassy in Prague plan to start a hunger strike tomorrow to support their demand to emigrate before Christmas, the mass-circulation Bild newspaper said yesterday (Michael Binyon writes).

The refugees, who have been in the embassy almost two months, have written to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, to appeal for help.

Bild, however, has quoted Herr Wolfgang Vogel, the East German lawyer who negotiates on the issue, as saying that no one should hope for any other solution at Christmas than a return to East Germany.

East Berlin has insisted that no-one else who flees into a western embassy will be allowed to leave directly for the west.

## Swiss rethink TV screening of 'Emmanuelle'

Geneva (AP) - The Swiss French-language television network will decide this week whether to go ahead with its controversial decision to broadcast the sexually-explicit film Emmanuelle on New Year's Eve, its programme director said yesterday.

Mr Jean Dumur said a survey in the weekly magazine L'Illustré showed that 72 per cent of the 500 French-language viewers polled were not shocked by the idea of seeing the film on television.

The 10-year-old French production, starring the Dutch actress Sylvia Kristel in love-making scenes with men and women, is scheduled to be shown at 2.15am on January 1 as part of an all-night film programme.

someone wanted to express his hatred of Germans.

Bonn is now pondering a proposed state visit here by President Reagan on May 2-4, immediately after the economic summit and before the anniversary of VE Day. Most people think a proposed visit by the President, together with Herr Kohl, to Dachau concentration camp would be inappropriate and look like domestic election-calling. The Chancellor's office has also firmly ruled out any meeting on May 8 between President Reagan, President Mitterrand and Mrs Thatcher.

The French President is understood to have let Bonn know that he is against taking part in any further ceremonies like the Normandy celebrations.

Newspeople here gave a warm welcome yesterday to the remarks by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in West Berlin that Britain intended vigorously to discharge its responsibilities for the defence of West Berlin's freedom.

Herr Peter Boenisch, the government spokesman, said he had never read anything so stupid as Tass. It was clear

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## MP takes legal action to force Sharon back from New York court

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

With Mr Ariel Sharon's \$50 million libel suit against *Time* magazine entering its second month, a political storm is brewing in Israel about the prolonged absence of the new Minister for Trade and Industry and the mounting cost of financing his legal battle in New York.

The controversial hearing arises out of 18 words in an article printed on February 21, 1983, concerning the report of the Kahan Commission into the massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Beirut camps of Sabra and Chatila.

In an unprecedented legal move yesterday, the opposition Citizens' Rights Movement, which has three deputies in the Knesset, sought a High Court injunction to force Mr Sharon to return immediately or to take indefinite leave.

In his application for an injunction against the government, the Prime Minister and Mr Sharon, one Knesset member, Mr Mordechai Bar-On, also submitted that the minister

leadership of the right-wing Likud faction, has been heightened because his ministry is supposedly at the centre of efforts to solve Israel's inflationary crisis through a three-month freeze on wages and prices.

Senior trade ministry officials have complained that their entire travelling budget for the current fiscal year has been eaten up in New York.

In a bitterly worded leading article, the *Tel Aviv* daily *Ha'aretz* accused Mr Sharon of failing to return home after the two weeks it said was granted to him by the Cabinet to deal with the trial and "matters pertaining to his ministry". It claimed that any businessman who had acted in a similar fashion would have been dismissed from his company.

In an Israel Radio interview from New York, Mr Sharon replied in characteristically blunt fashion, accusing the Labour Party headed by the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, of aiding Israel's enemies "as it had done in the past".

Criticism of Mr Sharon, a leading contender for the future

should himself be required to finance the costs of his visit and that of his staff, which are now being met by the Government.

Mr Sharon, a former Defence Minister and architect of the 1982 Lebanon invasion, has not been in Jerusalem since November 5. Mr Bar-On and other parliamentary critics claim that his absence is technically illegal, because he was granted Cabinet permission for only a two week absence.

Among those now calling for Mr Sharon's resignation is Mr Chaim Bar-Lev, Police Minister in the National Unity Government. He described as "absurd" the decision by the Exchequer to continue funding Mr Sharon's stay in the United States.

"Mr Sharon has claimed that the state of Israel is on trial, but he did not bother to ask the country whether it is interested in such a trial," Mr Bar-Lev said. "The trial is causing considerable damage to Israel on several fronts."

Criticism of Mr Sharon, a leading contender for the future

## Changing times at the EEC

### Thorn gloomy on future unity

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

A European Community of ten states, or 12 as it is due to become, cannot be managed by consensus, Mr Gaston Thorn told the European Parliament here in his farewell speech as Commission President yesterday.

Mr Thorn's view of the Community's future without a majority voting system is gloomy. The veto, he said, constituted a negation of the spirit of the treaty of Rome and the political ends of European construction.

He worried about the ravages that would be caused by "the

pure accountant's approach" now the rules to control spending had been introduced. The idea should not be to build an association of states but a community of different people.

For millions of citizens, he argued, the Community would lose its purpose if the building of Europe were to be neglected for selfish reasons. This thinly-disguised reference to British insistence on spending controls shocked Mr Thorn who worried that Britain is undermining the future of the Community.

Speaking on the eve of a parliamentary vote likely to

reject the EEC budget for next year, he pleaded for the Community to decide positively that it should exist.

Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Foreign Minister, was more positive in his final report on the six months of the Irish presidency.

He believed the Community was again on the move, citing negotiations to include Spain and Portugal and the agreement on spending control, but admitted that "the essential task of relaunching the Community remains uncompleted."

## Greece counts on Italy for help

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece is counting on the Italians, who assume the rotating presidency of the European Community next month, to push through the plan for massive aid to help the poorer Mediterranean regions to cushion the competitive shock from the admission of Spain and Portugal.

Otherwise, the Greek leaders insist, they will block the Community's enlargement into this plan, known as the "integrated Mediterranean programmes" (IMPs) is agreed, sealed and delivered.

Italy would, in fact, be the largest beneficiary under the Commission's original proposals, to the tune of 44.5 per cent of a total then estimated at 6.6 billion ECUs or £3,960 million.

Greece would be entitled to 38.4 per cent or £1.5 billion. The rest, 17 per cent, would go to France, which would eventually become a net contributor to the plan, hence its aloofness.

The officials in Athens blame Mrs Thatcher, in particular, and the other "Northern" Community members, except perhaps West Germany, for blocking these credits out of sheer bloody-mindedness.

Spanish and Portuguese vegetables, fruit, wines and olive oil are likely to give stiff competition to similar Greek products when the two Iberian countries

join the Community. The IMPs were devised originally to help the poorer areas in France and Italy and the whole of Greece to improve their economies and buttress them against the shock.

Under the original scheme, about two-thirds of the bulk of the grant of £1.5 billion would go to improve Greek agriculture, forestry and fisheries. One-third would help to create infrastructure, improve communications, promote tourism, train manpower and develop sources of energy.

Officials in Athens say the original sum of £1.5 billion over six years is negotiable, but they were shocked when the Community's 1985 budget included of 50 million ECUs (£30 million) for the first year of application, of which £11.4 million would be for Greece.

Greece now wants the Council of Ministers to respect the Fontainebleau summit's pledge and tackle seriously the proposals for the IMPs now before it, inserting generous sums where the blanks were left for the total cost of the programme its duration, and its sources of financing.

"What we do not want," said a Greek official, "is that money from the Community's funds that Greece would have received anyway should simply be diverted and restricted IMPs."

## 40-tonne lorry limit

Brussels. All lorries in the EEC - apart from Britain and Ireland - will be bound by a 40-tonne maximum weight limit from the end of 1986, transport ministers meeting in Brussels have agreed (Ian Murray writes).

The new limit means that some countries like Italy and Holland, will have to decrease the present maximum levels,

while other countries will have to increase theirs.

But it will not be until February 1987 that the question will be raised again about limits in Britain and Ireland and even then they will be able to veto any attempt to make them raise the present limits. The question then will be whether a target date can be set for the two countries to raise their limits.

## Strict action confirmed on milk surplus

From Our Own Correspondent, Strasbourg

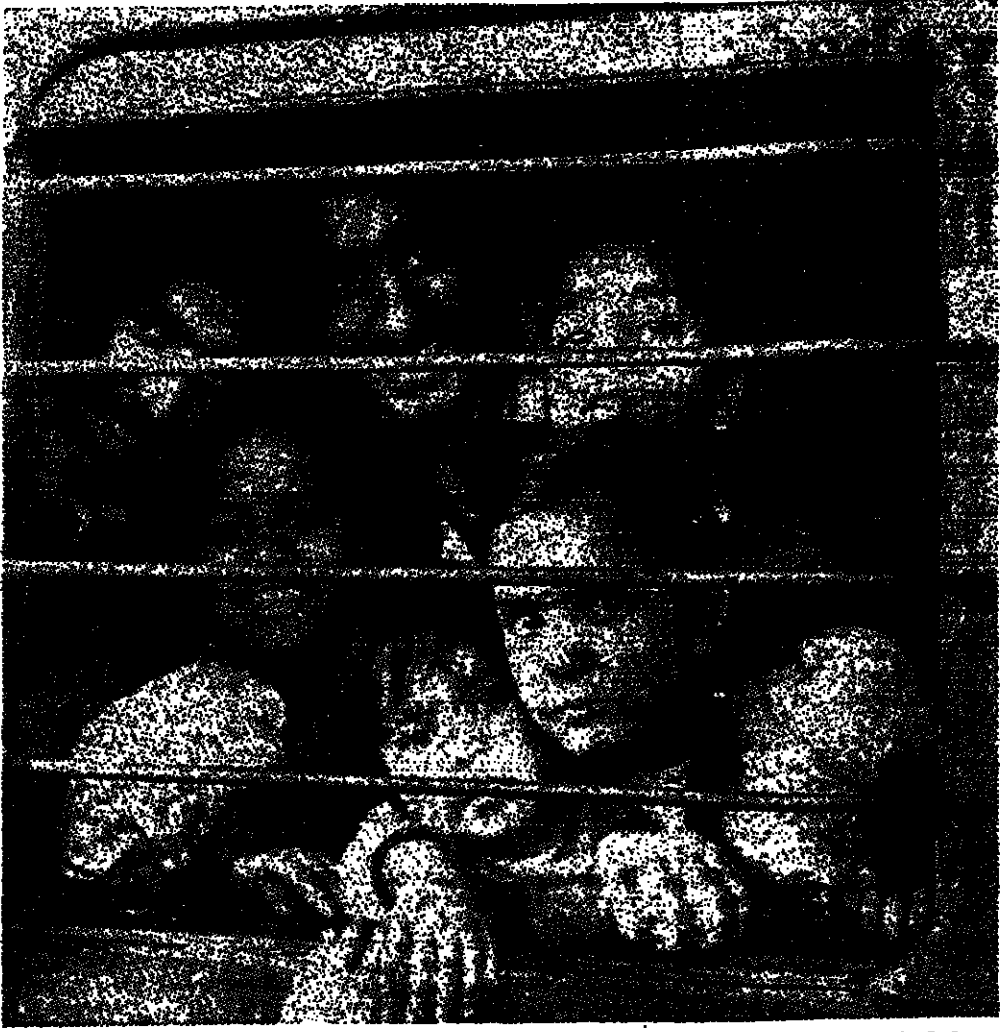
There is to be no reprieve for the EEC's surplus milk producers. The European Commission yesterday rejected a request from member states for a fifth delay in payments of the new super-levy on production in excess of the agreed quotas.

Community farm ministers on Tuesday asked the Commission for a further delay until March before making initial payments. France and Belgium both said they were still having trouble organizing administration to monitor the quotas.

But in Strasbourg yesterday the Commission decided, after the shortest of debates, to ignore the request. As it manages agricultural policy it has the last word on when the money should be paid, and it means to stick to its ruling that half of all money owed in a levy for over-production in the first six months of the quota system, must be paid by Saturday.

Just a month before it retires, the Commission feels it must get tough to ensure that the controversial system works. It has noted that production dropped by 3 per cent in its first six months, and that the fall over last year is now nearly 8 per cent.

The main offenders have already been taxed by the commission, by its refusal to forward advance payments totalling almost £60 million to countries in which it believes over-production is continuing.



Bhopal exodus: Smiles that hide fear on a crowded train as thousands yesterday fled the disaster city of Bhopal in India, spurred by rumours that attempts to make the Union Carbide chemical plant safe would release more killer gas.

## White House battle for Meese's job

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

An ideological power battle is under way at the White House about the departure early next year of Mr Edwin Meese, the White House Counselor, to become Attorney General. It will leave a gap in the top echelons that is worrying conservatives close to President Reagan.

They are determined to keep their substantial influence on the White House, but a strong group of moderate Republicans, headed by Mr James Baker, the Chief of Staff, is pressing hard for an increased role.

Mr Reagan may not have decided definitely to appoint another Counselor, since the position was based principally on his longstanding personal friendship with Mr Meese. Few in the Administration are as close to the President, or have such ready access to the Oval Office.

Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, United States ambassador to the United Nations, may want the job. Conservatives are supporting her strongly for a top White House post, but even if she became Counselor or a special presidential adviser, they would remain gloomy about the departure of the

powerful Mr Meese. Although he will retain substantial influence as a Cabinet member, conservatives fear that his departure will diminish their contact with the Oval Office.

His successor - however conservative - cannot possibly wield the same kind of influence. There are genuine fears that Mr Reagan's conservative agenda might be stalled.

In particular, Mr Meese's departure to the Justice Department would increase the leverage of Mr Baker, a moderate conservative whose staff has frequently been critical of the lack of political pragmatism of Mr Meese. Any increase in his power would be regarded by conservatives as a defeat in the battle for ideological supremacy.

Mrs Kirkpatrick's decision to delay her departure from the United Nations may be related to the possibility of her taking over the job as Counselor. After a 30-minute meeting with Mr Reagan on Tuesday she said: "We talked a bit about the future and agreed to talk again some time after the inauguration (in January)."

## Challenge to Senator defeated

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Senator Robert Byrd, from West Virginia, was re-elected as Senate Democratic minority leader yesterday, defeating a challenge by Senator Lawton Chiles, from Florida.

Senator Byrd defeated Senator Chiles by a vote of 32-10 among Democrats who will serve in the Senate next year. Five of the 47 Democrats did not vote.

Two outstanding results from the November election to the House of Representatives have emerged after recounts, Congressional sources said.

Robert Edgar, the incumbent Democrat, defeated Curt Weldon, Republican, in Pennsylvania District 7. David Bonior, held Utah District 2 for the Republicans, beating Francis Farley, Democrat.

Other results not included in *The Times* results table on November 8, or only published in later editions, were: California District 18, won by Richard Lehman, the incumbent Democrat; Idaho District 2, won by Richard Stallings, Democrat, defeating the Republican incumbent George Hansen; Illinois District 22, retained for the Democrats by a new candidate, Kenneth Gray; Indiana District 4, held by Frank McCloskey, the incumbent Democrat; and Texas District 6, taken from the Democrats by a Republican, Joe Barton.

## Gorbachev team of 30 for UK trip

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, second only to President Chernenko in the Soviet Communist Party hierarchy, will lead a delegation of 30 when he arrives on Saturday for a week's visit to Britain.

He comes as a guest of the British Inter-Parliamentary Union and visits to the Commons and leading British industries are included in his itinerary.

But interest throughout the West will be focused most intently on extensive talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Chequers on Sunday and with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary at the Foreign Office on Monday.

Whitehall is clearly delighted by the prospect of seeing the man whom Kremlinologists tip as the most likely successor to

the septuagenarian Mr Chernenko.

Mr Gorbachev, who will be accompanied by his wife, Raisa, is arguably the most important Russian to come to Britain since Mr Kossygin arrived as Prime Minister in 1967, and certainly since Mr Andri Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, seven years ago.

Rising star, page 14

## I was sold to sex club, British girl tells court

Nice (AFP) - A young British hitch-hiker was raped, beaten, drugged and forced into prostitution for several weeks by two gangs of thugs on the French Riviera, one of which tried to sell her to a West German sex club, a court was told here yesterday.

The Assizes court for the Alpes-Maritimes Department is hearing murder charges against two of the men, Francois Tripodi and Serge Pastourel, accused of running down a third, Jacques Snider, after he fell in love with the young woman and helped her escape.

The court heard that the woman, named only as Elizabeth H, from London, had gone camping in Spain with friends in June 1981, when she was 17. She then travelled to Nice as far as

Antibes, on the Cote d'Azur, on the way to see friends in Nice.

In her deposition - her lawyer said she was too frightened to appear personally in court - she said she was picked up by three men in a car who promised to put her up and find her a job, since she had no money.

She said after two or three days, however, they told her she must become a streetwalker, and beat her up to convince her. However, she slipped away from one of her "protectors" and joined three other "very friendly" young men who found her a place to stay. But the new trio quickly started beating her and put her back on the street.

In late 1981, she learned she had been sold to an "Eros Centre" in West Germany for 30,000 francs (about £2,600).

## Kasparov opens record day with variation

Moscow (Reuters) - Gary Kasparov, playing white, yesterday began the 32nd game of his world chess title challenge against the champion, Anatoly Karpov, with an opening last used in the tenth game of their record competition.

Kasparov used his last time-out to postpone the game until yesterday when he adopted his usual counter.

Kasparov chose a more ambitious seventh move in seeking control influence and forced the champion to consider a game variation not seen for several weeks.

Yesterday was the 94th day of play, surpassing the record set in 1978 when Karpov beat the Soviet defector, Viktor Korchnoi, 6-5. Karpov leads 5-0, and needs only one more victory to retain the title.

## Zambian firms face big fraud inquiries

From Alfred Sayila, Lusaka

Financial scandals involving millions of kwacha continue to surface in Zambia. In separate incidents, two state-owned financial houses are alleged to have swindled the public out of more than 6 million kwacha (£2.5 million) in the last 10 years.

Investigations and audits are under way at the Zambia National Provident Fund and Zambia National Commercial Bank.

Three state bodies, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Special Investigations Team for Economy and Trade and the Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation were moving in to search through files and interrogate various people before deciding on prosecutions.

## Petrol bombs hit home of Soweto mayor

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Two petrol bombs were thrown through windows of the home of the mayor of Soweto early yesterday, less than 48 hours after his election. Mr Edward Kumene, aged 52, and his family were not hurt.

The attack follows the murder by gunmen last week of the leading candidate for mayor, Mr Edward Manyosi. After his election on Monday Mr Kumene said: "If death comes my way, I'll face it."

He won his council seat as a candidate for migrant workers in the sprawling black township, the home of more than two million blacks outside Johannesburg, and was appointed mayor in succession to Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, a millionaire businessman.

## Mauritania President ousted in army coup

Nouakchott (Reuters) The former Mauritania Prime Minister, Lieutenant-Colonel Maouya Ould Taya, seized power here yesterday in a coup, Nouakchott radio said.

The radio added that night curfew had been imposed and all airports closed until further notice.

The Mauritania President, Lieutenant-Colonel Mohamed Khouda Ould Haidalla, was reported to have left the Burundi capital Bujumbura, where he was attending the Franco-African summit meeting for an unknown destination.

Mauritania, a poor, largely desert country in West Africa, has had a turbulent history since the Army overthrew the pro-western President Moktar Ould Daddah in 1979. Lieutenant-Colonel Haidalla was chief of staff of the Army from the 1978 coup until April 1979, when he became Defence Minister, and then Prime Minister.

He took supreme power in a 1980 reshuffle of the military leadership, becoming president in place of Lieutenant-Colonel Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly, who was dismissed after only six months in office.

The radio said the situation in the capital was calm but guns had been placed in front of armed forces headquarters. President Haidalla sacked Lieutenant Colonel Taya as Prime Minister last March and took over the day-to-day running of government in a cabinet reshuffle. He also replaced him as minister of defence.

Lieutenant Colonel Taya, a 41-year-old French-trained officer who was previously armed forces chief of staff, had been Prime Minister since 1981.

He was appointed chief of staff again in the March reshuffle.

Mauritania has been ravaged by severe drought during the last decade, increasing already severe economic problems. The former French colony, which depends for most of its meagre foreign exchange earnings on iron ore exports, celebrated 24 years of independence this month.

● Mauritania is a drought-hit nation on the fringe of the Sahara desert. About the size of France and Spain combined, its capital is Nouakchott, on the Atlantic coast. Formerly a city of 100,000 people, it is now home to 450,000 many of them living in tents and shantytowns. With two-thirds of its land already swallowed up by the desert before the current drought, the country now produces only about 5 per cent of its food needs.

Chadian forces, page 7

## Three killed in Beirut car bomb explosion

Beirut - At least three people were killed and seven were injured yesterday when a powerful car bomb exploded outside a Druze religious centre in west Beirut. (Our Correspondent writes).

Most of the victims were pedestrians or motorists who were outside the three-storey building. The bombing came on a third day of fighting between the Lebanese Army and Druze militiamen in the mountains overlooking Beirut.

## Land lost under 1659 treaty

Agullana, Spain (Reuters) - The 600 people living here were confused and angry yesterday after Spain ceded 300 square metres of the town to France under the 1659 Treaty of the Pyrenees.

The only person directly affected is a geologist, Señor Juan Llano, who holds a small plot of land at Agullana but lives in Barcelona. The town will lose his £60 a year local tax payment.

## Guerrilla camp is overrun

Bangkok (Reuters) - Vietnamese troops have overrun a Cambodian guerrilla base at Sroc Sam near the Thai border, Thai military sources said.

Fighting continued as guerrillas regrouped for counterattacks along the 450-mile border.

## Implant costs

Louisville, Kentucky (AP) - Mr William Schroeder will not have to pay any bills for his artificial heart implant, but Humana Inc, which is underwriting the experiment, is talking to his insurance company hoping to recoup some of the expenses incurred before the operation.

## 'Spy' trial

Ho Chi Minh City (AFP) - An espionage trial of about 20 Vietnamese accused of plotting to overthrow the Government opens here tomorrow, with the United States, China and Thailand all implicated, informed sources said.

## Bombing charge

Islamabad (Reuters) - Pakistan yesterday accused Afghanistan of again bombing its territory, saying two jets had dropped four bombs and fired rockets at Peshawar Kotel, a village close to a guerrilla supply route into Afghanistan.

## Nazi's jail plea

Rome (AP) - Herr Walter Reider, a former Nazi major serving life in a military prison in Gaeta near Naples for killing more than 1,800 Italians in the Second World War, has sought the Pope's help to secure his release.

## Poll violence

Delhi (Reuters) - An angry crowd stoned the Indian minister of state for commerce, Mr S. M. Krishna, and 20 political workers at an election meeting near Bangalore in southern Andhra Pradesh state, the Press Trust of India said.

## Holiday truce

La Jota, El Salvador (Reuters) - Left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador said they would observe a truce for Christmas and New Year in their war against the Government.

## Gunmen flee

Athens (A) - Mr Abdullah Yassin, aged 38, an attaché at the Syrian Embassy here, fired back at gunmen who attacked him at the seaside suburb of Kalamaki. The gunmen fled.

## Absent Sindona

Milan (Reuters) - The Sicilian financier, Michele Sindona, in a telephone call from jail, has agreed to be tried in absentia on charges of fraud.

## 23 imprisoned

Ankara - Twenty-three Jehovah's Witnesses were jailed here on charges of "anti-secular activities".

## Sinhalese learn how to grin and bear it

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

When launching the Civil Defence scheme to protect Sri Lanka against internal or external aggression, the Prime Minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, commented the example of the British in the Second World War to his own people.

That the message has gone home has been seen in the stoic calm with which the Sinhalese have endured a series of disasters.

When 10 bombs exploded in different parts of Colombo, killing three persons and injuring seven, people went about their business almost as if nothing had happened.

Attempts by the Tamil separatist rebels to blow up a pipeline from the only oil refinery near Colombo, and an attack on the tower of the state television service on the highest mountain in the central hills, also caused death and injuries, but concern was tempered by relief that no serious damage had been done.

The real test for the Sinhalese

## Reagan envoy backs political solution

Delhi (Reuters) - General Vernon Walters, the United States special envoy, yesterday agreed with India that there could be no military solution to Sri Lanka's crisis, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

General Walters arrived in Delhi on Tuesday night after talks in Colombo on the guerrilla violence and ethnic unrest. He emphasized the need for an urgent political solution.

A week later Tamil rebels launched attacks on Sinhalese farmers at two prisoner rehabilitation schemes in the north-east, and then on two settlements of migrant Sinhalese fishermen, also in the north-east. Eighty men, women and children were killed in the attack on the two farms and 13 in the assault on the fishing villages.

President Jayawardene and the Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathudumali, have repeatedly emphasized that the aim of the Tamil rebels in the south into retaliatory action which would compel the Government to divert some troops in the north to restoring order in the south.

hour curfew as the funerals of those killed in the police station attack were held, and only three or four minor incidents took place.

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The attacks on the farms and fishing villages were followed immediately by the capture, kidnapping and possible killing of 12 Sinhalese workers at the government cement factory in

the north. Once again the Sinhalese in the south reacted with restraint.

The only blot on the Sinhalese record was in the north-western town of Mannar, where the Army went on the rampage after one soldier died in an explosion. For three days the Government tried to maintain that the Army had killed only 35 "terrorists" in a counter-attack, with the possibility of a few civilians being killed in the crossfire. However, in the face of eye-witness reports that about 100 civilians had been killed, Mr Athulathudumali decided on an official investigation.

In the improved climate of relations between the two communities in the south, Mr Athulathudumali has called on Tamils to show their solidarity with the Sinhalese by joining the vigilance committees that are being formed and making known their opposition to terrorism.

The all-party conference on the Tamil problem, which last met on September 30, is due to meet again today and tomorrow.



Problems for two European Socialist parties

# Spain: Nato-stance puts González on spot

From Richard Wines, Madrid

Spain's Prime Minister, Felipe González, will mark today's opening of his Socialist Party's 30th conference with a strong defence of Spain's continued membership of Nato, even though he admits it is widely unpopular.

While the Prime Minister has shown that the Left can govern in Spain, in difficult times, the conference is expected to be a good guide to exactly how much wear and tear there has been among the socialist rank and file. Some unrest can be expected with 400,000 more people unemployed than when the Socialists came to office, and the policies of Señor Miguel Boyer, the Economics Minister, increasingly concentrating on public sector inefficiency and the need to give private business more profits.

Señor González's attempt to "sell Nato" while Spain's EEC membership is still in doubt worries delegates. But worker disenchantment with the Socialist record in office worries them even more.

Señor Nicholas Redondo, the socialist trade union leader who heads the Basque delegation, has threatened to bring to the fore labour unrest, which has led to more than a month of street violence over the Government's programme to restructure uncompetitive Spanish industries.

He has also promised to express the desire of many

Spanish socialists for neutralism and a distrust of all defence alliances. He advocates upholding the previous conference stand of October 1981 for the party to campaign actively in the promised Nato referendum for complete Spanish withdrawal.

Señor González announced his option of remaining in Nato but not going ahead with integration into its military structure to Parliament well ahead of the conference.

Now, as party secretary general, he has to carry a majority of the 749 delegates with him to lay the basis for the referendum promised by February 1986.

On television earlier this week the Prime Minister said he was "completely aware" that the Socialist position was against Nato. "If I had to decide about joining I do not believe I would have done so," he observed. "Of the previous government's 1982 decision, 'Now, when I think about maintaining the existing situation, I do so with my head, not with my heart'."

"We shall certainly be expecting a full explanation from Felipe of his changed attitude towards Nato," a veteran Socialist delegate told me. "But if his reasons are good I reckon the delegates will be influenced."

The outgoing executive maintained yesterday that 70 per

cent of the delegates would have endorsed Señor González's position by Sunday night when the conference ends.

The Socialists are a highly disciplined party and the significance of being in power for the first time in their more than 100-year history has been hammered home at preparatory party gatherings for months.

The outgoing executive's draft policy bears little resemblance to Señor González's actual decision. Even so it faces hundreds of proposed amendments.

As the conference will lay the basis for the party's programme at the next general election, the leadership is expected to make some concessions to a conference whose slogan is "Spain, a commitment to solidarity".

Outside the conference are the party's 162,000 rank and file, only 8 per cent of whom are under 25 and with everyday worries like rising costs and loss of jobs. In pre-government years membership reached almost 175,000.

That underlines the party's problem of keeping in step with society and how to retain as many as possible of the 10 million voters many boasting that supported it two years ago. Señor González, in the coming days must address these people as well as the well-drilled party delegates.

# Bush calls for swift justice from Iran

Washington (Reuters) - The United States yesterday demanded that Iran bring the men who killed two Americans and tortured others onboard a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner "swiftly and surely to justice."

"Let us condemn terrorism for the brutal cowardice that it is," Vice-President George Bush said at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington where he met the plane that brought home the bodies of the two murdered Americans.

"Let us resolve that civilized nations can and must resist terrorism and demand that governments have the decency to bring to justice terrorists, to bring them swiftly and surely to justice."

Mr. Henry Clark, the British pilot of the Kuwaiti airliner, yesterday described the "final moments of one of the victims, Charles Hegna, aged 30, a US Government employee."

"I think they maybe had the intention of making him speak on the radio. I do know that he was praying at the time. Then he was removed from the flight deck and the next thing I heard was a shot."

Mr. Clark, who said he saw no evidence of Iranian complicity in the hijacking, said one of the airline staff was forced to act as translator during the "the main torture session" last Friday night. But he did not think either of the murdered Americans had been tortured.

● KUWAIT: The Government here is exploring legal



Hijack grief: Mrs Edwina Hegna wiping away tears as she waits next to Vice-President Bush for the return of her husband's body at Edwards Air Force Base yesterday.

means to make Iran hand over the hijackers, an official source said. (AFP reports)

Officials were looking at the 1970 Hague Convention on hijacking, whose signatories include Kuwait and Iran, as a way of seeking extraditions, the source said. Iran reportedly has

said it will try the four hijackers.

● LONDON: Mrs Joyce Beeston, the wife of Mr. Neil Beeston, the British flight engineer on the hijacked plane, flew to Kuwait from Heathrow yesterday with her son David to be reunited with her husband.

Mrs Beeston said: "It's the end of a nightmare for us."

● NICOSIA: Iranian authorities foiled a plot last Saturday to hijack an Iranian airliner on a domestic flight and arrested all the plotters, the official Iran news agency said yesterday (AP reports).

# Two jolts needed to electrocute killer

Jackson, Georgia (AP) - Alpha Otis Stephens, convicted of murdering a man apparently survived the first jolt in the electric chair yesterday, but the current was turned on again to execute him.

A prescribed two-minute jolt of 2,000 volts failed to kill Stephens, so the warden, Mr. Ralph Kemp, ordered that the procedure be repeated, and the condemned man was pronounced dead at 12:37am local time at the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Centre. He was the 20th person to be executed in the United States this year.

After the first charge, "he still had minor vital signs," a prison spokesman said. "When the physician noticed it, we hit him with a second jolt. It was standard procedure."

A trembling Stephens was strapped into the chair at 12:15am and shook his head when asked if he had a final statement. He bit his lips slightly and watched intently as he was prepared for execution.

At 12:18am, the first charge was applied. His head rolled slowly and his chest heaved. Two minutes later, the electricity was shut off, but he was still breathing.

The second charge began at 12:28am. Stephens' chest heaved again and his head again rolled.

The charge was cut off at 12:30am, and his body was motionless.

# France: Pressure for economic boost

From Diana Geddes, Paris

With its rigorous economic policy just beginning to show positive results, the French Government seems determined to resist calls from its supporters to relax its measures and give the economy a boost ahead of the critical 1986 parliamentary elections.

The Socialist Party's left-wing has long advocated reflation, but it came as a surprise when M. André Laignel, party treasurer, and commonly identified with the mainstream, came out earlier this week in favour of what he termed a "selective" reflation to stop the Left's further electoral support.

But M. Lionel Jospin, party first secretary, made the Government's position clear, by saying: "Let us do what we

services and those industrial prices still controlled by the Government are due to rise on average by only 3 per cent."

Two-thirds of industrial prices have now been freed from Government controls, and M. Pierre Bérégovoy, the Finance Minister, is talking about the possibility of freeing the remaining prices by the beginning of 1986.

One of the Government's greatest economic successes has been to break the traditional system of indexing wages to the rise in prices, with little trouble from the unions. Nearly all wage increases this year have been within the Government's 5 per cent guidelines, well below the inflation rate.

A side effect, however, has been that overall net incomes have hardly risen at all this year, after actually falling slightly in 1983. That has resulted in a virtual stagnation of consumer spending, hitting those firms with a largely domestic market.

Export industries are doing comparatively well, and industrial profits overall this year are up 25 per cent in cash terms, higher than for a long time. Industrial investment has also picked up, rising by an estimated 9 per cent in volume this year, the biggest increase for more than a decade.

The trade deficit, which reached a record 93 billion francs (£8 billion) two years ago, is expected to fall to about 30 billion francs this year, while the current account deficit is expected to fall below 10 billion francs. The Government hopes to bring the trade deficit into balance, or even produce a small surplus by the end of 1985.

But the foreign debt of 469 billion francs remains embarrassingly high, and independent forecasters feel France is unlikely to have sufficiently solid current account surplus to meet the increasing number of debt repayments which will fall due from 1986 onwards.

The Government aims for 1.8 per cent economic growth next year, up from an estimated 1.3 per cent this year, and 1 per cent last year. But the situation is still very delicate.



M Bérégovoy: Hopes to end price controls

believe to be just and pursue a policy with a perspective beyond 1986."

The Government's economic policies will be the central topic at the Socialist Party's two-day national convention on the theme of "Modernization and social progress" to be held just outside Paris this weekend.

Inflation in France is expected to be down to 7 per cent by the end of this year, half its level when the Socialists came to power in 1981. But it is significantly above the Government's original target of 5 per cent, and still far too high in comparison with France's main trading partners.

The Government's target for next year is 4.5 per cent. Wages in the public sector are to be kept to that level, as are increases in dividends and public tariffs, while public

# Chadian forces must act first, Mitterrand says

Bujumbura, Burundi (AP) - President Mitterrand said yesterday that if there were any French military operations in northern Chad in future, the Chadian forces of President Hissène Habré "would have to go in first."

Asked to elaborate at a press conference after a two-day French-African summit, the French President replied: "Habré is his own master. He is free to act in his country as he wishes. Wait and see."

M. Mitterrand declined to comment on a private discussion he had with President Habré earlier in the day and told a questioner: "The meeting was between us and I have nothing to say about it."

At the summit, several moderate African leaders were reported to have pressed President Mitterrand in vain for a commitment to give security guarantees to French-speaking Africa in addition to the six countries which already have mutual defence agreements with France. M. Mitterrand emphasized that Chad was not one of these countries, and he told the summit the French task force was sent to Chad last year in keeping with "a global concept of equilibrium in Africa."

# Zia promises to step down if he loses poll

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, said that if the people's verdict in the December 19 referendum went against him, "I shall step down after handing over power."

According to a report of a press conference in Lahore on Tuesday night.

The referendum is on his Islamic reforms and programmes and seeks a mandate to rule Pakistan for the next five years.

The report on Tuesday's press conference does not say to whom he would hand over power. Earlier, however, Raja Zia ul-Haq, the Information Minister, had stated that if the referendum were lost, General Zia would continue in power until he was able to conduct parliamentary elections and nominate a prime minister, ideally by spring next year.

General Zia reportedly described the referendum as a religious obligation in conformity with Islam and a necessity for strengthening the country's stability. He denied that it was devised to perpetuate his rule. It was supposed to pave the way for a transfer of power.

# What other camera could catch this ball?



Catching frostbite would seem a better bet for most flash cameras.

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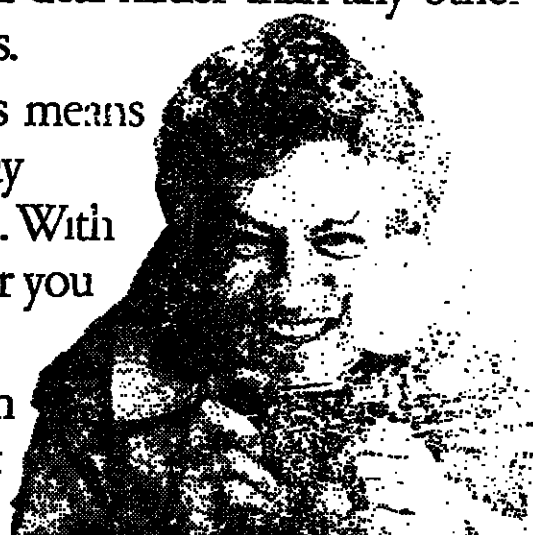
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## BOOKS

## The writer at war with love

Manufacturers of the product may be interested to know that D. H. Lawrence used Kolyon tooth-paste. He also thought German asparagus to be the best in the world (in this he was deceived, mistaking size for quality). He always used porters at railway stations, but he preferred not to have anything by way of a home help. When he did the housework in Sicily he washed the floor in the nude. These are some of the items of trivial interest to be gleaned from 730 pages of his letters - from that is, the latest volume of what will be a seven-volume complete edition.

It has to be said that a great deal of what is contained here is very short on abiding interest. Those who wish to follow in detail the full and complex story of Lawrence's relations with his publishers will find most of the evidence here assembled, but for most people it is enough to know that during the years covered by this volume Lawrence the novelist was finding it extremely hard to get into print, let alone make any money. In the year before the Great War he earned £450, but during 1917-18 he was making do on a quarter of this amount. At one point, such was the difficulty of finding publishers, he even tried to place *Women in Love* with Mills & Boon.

The sourness of his attitude to England and his literary establishment may be partly explained by this enraged sense of rejection: coupled with ill-health and persecution by the locals in Cornwall (on the apparent grounds that they thought he and his wife Freda were spies), the circumstances were enough to put a man in a rage. And yet the rage goes beyond the obvious and reasonable provocation. It undermines the sincerity of his friendships, and it exacerbates his enemies.

In the first part of this volume, we hear nothing but filth of Middleton Murry and Katherine Mansfield. In the central section there is a reprieve. Murry is editor of the *Athenaeum*, and his wife becomes recipient of some of Lawrence's best, most vivid letters. But then Murry rejects Lawrence's articles for his magazine, and the taps of fury are turned on full:

... what it amounts to is that you are a dirty little work, and you talk to me about it. But now let me tell you at last that I know it - not that it's anything new; and that I can plainly understand between you and me, that I consider you a dirty little work; and so, deposit your dirty bit of reason where you like; at any rate we know what to expect.

## James Fenton reviews the life and hard lines and jealousies of rising Lawrence

THE LETTERS OF D. H. LAWRENCE  
Volume Three, 1916-21  
Edited by James T. Boulton and Andrew Robertson  
Cambridge, £25

So much for Murry. For Mansfield, the message was just a trifle more cruel: "I loathe you, you revolt me stewing in your consumption." He considered that her disease was her fault. Did he also think that his disease was his fault? We shall find out in volume 7. Almost the last reference to Katherine in this volume describes her as "doing her last gasp touch in order to impose on people". He seems to have envied her gifts as well as her disease.

In a more tangential case you can understand this enviousness. When he encounters Compton Mackenzie on Capri after the war, Lawrence is at first friendly, then satirical about the adulation Mackenzie gets from Francis Brett Young. Finally Capri is too small for all of them. Lawrence calls it a stew pot of semi-literary cats. He likes Mackenzie "as a man but not as an influence. I can't stand his island". Unmistakably here, Lawrence can't bear living in the shadow of a famous and rich novelist, when he is not yet rich or famous enough. He goes off to Sicily, where he hears that Brett-Young has bought a house at the opposite end of Capri from Mackenzie. He imagines the two of them with the island between their teeth pulling like mad. But such competitiveness is clearly originally his.

Though you can understand the professional envy, it is more difficult to follow Lawrence in his rages against his friends. When Mary Cannon, one of the correspondents with whom Lawrence has always appeared to be on very friendly terms, decides to bob her hair and give herself the Twelve Pound Look, he goes off at the deep end:

She's cut her hair. One day it thundered and lightning and was very Ennatah, and it got on her nerves all alone in the studio, so she went out and

hobbed herself. Freda says it suits her, but ever since I can't bear the sight of her. It brings out all the pseudo-maniacal street-Arab aggressive selfish insolence which affects me nowadays, as a male, like somebody throwing black pepper in my eyes. I plainly hate her.

At first as is often the case with Lawrence you think he must be joking. But then it all gets too much:

Concetti, hideous, elderly, megalomaniac sexual concetti, that's what all these elderly scowling hitches. If I had any sense of fitness I'd spit a fat mouthful of lava at her.

By now you feel it really must have been quite a hair cut.

But this capacity for hatred was turned by Lawrence into the motor power of a philosophy. On more than one occasion he shows that he doubts the possibility of friendship for him, and in the last letter of the volume he turns his scorn against love itself:

Why is everybody always caring so hard about somebody else? Why not leave off in short, why not have done with Jesus and with love and have a shot at conscious proud power. Why not soldiers, instead of lovers? Why not laugh, and spit in the eye of love. Really, why not laugh? As for the absolute I have no absolute but myself. And as for vision - I'm a penny, three a penny, money go cheap. Kick the posterior of creeping love, and laugh when it winces. Pah, it is a disease love... give me henceforth Mars, and a free flight.

This is a most striking note on which to end a volume that began with Lawrence hoping for the Great War and wanting nothing to do with it. It is impossible though for a man in his early thirties to ignore the fact that his country is at war and that men of his age are dying in such numbers. Lawrence's own attitude, which was neither pacifist nor in any sense articulate, amounted to mere egotism: the war was getting in his way. He could not believe that America would become involved. It would be a catastrophe if he did. And the reason why it would be a catastrophe is quite simply that Lawrence wanted to go to America to live.

Every time he is called for a medical examination he goes into a paroxysm of misery, but it is only in the last weeks of the war that he is classified as fit for "secondary work". In a way the war has rejected him. He could not have been a part of it if he had wanted to, and this knowledge is most galling to him. He had failed to kill - and if he had failed as a killer, how could he succeed as a lover?



## Classic prophetess, and weightlessness

## FICTION

Nicholas Shakespeare

CASSANDRA  
By Crista Wolf  
Viking, £10.95

SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH  
By Douglas Adams  
Pan, £6.95

LAUGHING PIG AND OTHER STORIES  
By Peter Regent  
Robinson, £7.95

It's often depressing to discover the stuff of which dreams are made. A story goes that Yeats took some of the images for his *Byzantium* from the frieze around Stockholm's town hall when he went to collect his Nobel Prize. Another little beginning with a big end was Keats's Grecian urn, according to one version - a species of chamberpot art with vulgar bulges and bumps. The short novel *Cassandra* by the East German writer Crista Wolf, is just a further example of the gap between an artist's inspiration and his art.

It is the hour of Cassandra's death. While her Greek captors drink in the citadel, this daughter of the King of Troy looks back on her life - from the moment Apollo spat in her mouth the gift of prophecy, and the catch that no one would believe her. She remembers how - limbs twitching, lips foaming, throat gurgling, she broadcast not the usual weather forecasts but unconventional bulletins: that "no one can win a war waged for a phantom" (Helen having scurried with the King of Egypt), and that Troy would fall. She recalls the war - how, before her eyes "Achilles the brute" strangled one brother - Troilus - and dragged another - Hector - round the fortress till he became a chunk of meat. And she brings reluctantly to mind the "voluptuousness" of self-destruction - the night her sister Polyxena walked along the city wall and bared her breasts to Achilles, and how Achilles drooped. Finally, having refused to flee with Aeneas, the sole man she ever loved, Cassandra faces her own destruction.

*Cassandra* is a powerful recreation of classical myth by a modern master. She is believable, alive, and shuddering with the author's obsession with her. What makes the reader shudder are four essays which follow, explaining this obsession - a diary, a letter and the two-part record of a Greek holiday. With the same mad energy as Schliemann proved against popular thought that Troy existed, so Crista Wolf tries to show how *Cassandra*, in her capacity as seer (normally a man's job), was "the first professional working woman in literature".

On a trip to Greece in 1980, Wolf can't see the modern world for the ancient. She drinks retsina and imagines banquets. She stands in the ruins where *Cassandra* stood, and beams her up from the underworld. She even meets Helen, not of Troy but of Columbus, Ohio - a girl

anxious to prove "women called the tune in Crete and that the Minoans were better for it". And all the time Wolf relentlessly implies she is herself an incarnation of her heroine, shrieking about the arms race and much else to deaf ears. The fiction distilled from this is worth reading. It's just sad the author prefers the course of her obsession to its fruit: what went into her waste-paper basket to what was saved from it.

Just the idea of Douglas Adams's waste-paper basket is enough to make one foam and gurgle. The original inspiration for his *Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* was a night spent gazing drunkenly at the stars from a camp site in Innsbruck. The inspiration, by the time of this "fourth book in the Hitch-hiker trilogy" (sic), is beginning to wear off. In fact *So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish* is a novel not so much spangled as so light you have to hold it down.

Adams's effects come from piling the values of the universe against those of the supermarket, and he has some good lines. However, bored by his narrative he tends to thrive on red herrings. The result is an absence of gravity and a work in which bits and pieces of different sketches orbit round a non-existent plot. As the last line says: "There was a point of this story but it has temporarily escaped the chronicle's mind".

Peter Regent's *Laughing Pig and Other Stories* is a bright distinctive first collection about the attempts of clumsy voyeurs to enter a sensual world. A clergyman on holiday in Greece is seduced by a girl who turns out to be an ancient goddess. A man addicted to strip-shows finds himself one lunchtime ogling his own daughter. When Regent has his story so violent twists, they lose their heads. When he keeps his own, he can be both acute and deft.

## Yet more shrieks and floods

Patrick Garland

THE HOUSE OF MITFORD  
By Jonathan Guinness  
Hutchinson, £12.95

As early as the first book of *Moses*, William Auden assures us, it was man's first impulse, upon confronting an unexpected animal or plant, to give it a name: the characteristic of the seven Mitford children would be to give it a nick-name - especially a member of the family. Nick-names abound throughout Jonathan Guinness's, and his daughter Catherine's book; and the element of wild mockery, alternately admiring and sharp, persists in naming of a family who still persist in arousing our enthusiasm and reproach. This is the latest in the collection of Mitfordiana which Deborah, Duchess of Devonshire, and youngest daughter, calls "the Industry" with the same nonchalance that she refers to her great house, Chatsworth, as "the Dump".

A family friend noted the seven Mitfords were forever breaking out into shouts of laughter, or breaking down in floods of tears, and amid the shouts and floods, often initiated by Nancy, a profusion of breathless nicknames emerge with the imaginative precision of Captain Gronow's memoirs, or the *Drones Club*. His brothers and sisters called the second Lord Redesdale *The Old Ape*, his children called him *The Poor Old Male*, *Forgery* and *Farver* his wife, *The Poor Old Female*, and Muriel was *Blob*, *Nose*, *Octopus*, *Untruth*, and *The Old French Lady*; Pamela was *Woman*, or *Woomling*, the only son, Tom, *Tud* or *Tuddamy*; Diana, an unlikely Aunt Honks; Unity, a predictable Valkyrie (even in pre-Nazi days); Jessica was the attractive *Deca*, or *Little D*; Deborah, *Debo*, or *Stubby*; or *The Nine-Year-Old*, supposedly, and unconvincingly, referring to her mental age; and there were countless others from the benign *Old Tollgate*, for Nancy's first husband, Peter Ronald, to Von and Zia for the less than benign Hermann Goering.

Jonathan Guinness, eldest of the two sons of Diana Mitford, by her first husband the poet,

Bryan Guinness, has set the glamorous Mitford Girls (in John Betjeman's catch phrase of the thirties) and their easily overlooked brother, Tom, within the context of the previous generations. To achieve a historical perspective Mr Guinness spends a couple of hundred pages of relatively flat family history devoted to the maternal and paternal grandfathers, and the Redesdales emerge as surprisingly recent aristocrats despite their ancient-sounding name. Both Grandfathers betrayed hints of oddity about hygiene, house-building, diet, children, and the medical profession, which emerge with such bravura in grand-daughter Nancy's novels, and a great deal of Uncle Matthew's idiosyncrasy can be seen in the behaviour of David Bertram Ogilvy Mitford, the second Lord.

He was the one who, among other furiously held convictions, disputed the right of women to enter the House of Lords, because they might monopolize the only lavatory; and who believed that to abolish the Upper House would undermine the very foundations of Christianity.

The truth is, the six sisters - one has to leave out Tom, the enigmatic brother, who was killed in Burma in the last year of the war - for all their snobbery, affectation, and silliness, their tastes, unrepentant brightness, and even the unmissable "Mitford voice", described as "a sort of sagging" - are outstanding and extraordinary in almost every way. They fall generously into the category of people who, had they not existed, would not have provoked invention. Mr Guinness is right to say, Nancy's light fiction apart, the sisters' own writings are devoted largely to point-making and axe-grinding.

often defensive positions adopted by the C.P. Jessica, against the N.S.P. Diana, unicorn. "Oh, dear" complained Nancy to Unity, with justification. "I wish I had never been born into a family of fanatics... oh, dear!" For indeed she was, and there is always the awkward spectre of Unity, and the uneasy wartime role of Lady Mosley to confront her, and us.

Mr Guinness remembers his Aunt Bobo (Unity), well, and found in her life on Inchinich Island the division of angry child and wounded adult unnering, following her botched suicide attempt in the English Garden in Munich.

Not for nothing, even in fun, did her sharp, adoring sister, Nancy, address Unity as "Head of bone, heart of stone". Much later, her friend Mrs Hammett wrote to Nancy, a propos of her hero-worship of De Gaulle: "You Mitfords like dictators." To which Nancy replied firmly: "I do not! Nor clearly does the Duchess of Devonshire, and her sister, Pamela Jackson, visiting Unity, in 1935 in Munich for the Oktoberfest, found Hitler, 'very ordinary, like an old farmer in his khaki suit', which speaks well for Mitford common sense.

There are one or two infelicities. Henry Yorke's novels are described as "appealing to a minority, but will never be forgotten", and rather too many celebrities "come" to Diana's house at Biddesden or Highbury. "Brian Howard came, of course", and "a London acquaintance who never actually came was Tom Driberg, very left-wing and indefinably homosexual...". Otherwise, as in Nancy's introduction to her edition of the Stanley family letters: "Here is the picture of a dead world, past and gone... now that the music has stopped, its echo must have a nostalgic charm." Evelyn Waugh, a month before he died, wrote in a letter to Lady Mosley: "All you Mitfords seem to have great stamina". Yes. They have.

## Chase my chasuble, alb and orphreys

Roy Strong

A HISTORY OF ECCLESIASTICAL DRESS  
By Janet Mayo  
Batsford, £20

It is true to say that passions are still aroused by clerical dress, although those halcyon days when one used to get a *frisson* in tracking down Anglican High Mass with the celebrant in a fiddle-backed chasuble are gone for ever. The sight of vestments at the altar can still move a congregation to murmur if not revolt. One wonders what their reaction would have been to the Earl Bishop of Bristol in purple with diamond knee and shoe buckles - and a hat of the Volunteers on his head parading around Rome at the turn of the eighteenth century.

Janet Mayo's *A History of Ecclesiastical Dress* is a useful tour of this subject. It is a bit like one of those packages which offer the traveller five countries in seven days, because here we hurdle through nearly 2,000 years of Christianity in just under 200 pages. Admittedly she opts out of the Church Universal, or rather its western branch, at the sixth century and settles on the British Isles or

rather England, for Scotland and Wales barely figure.

Nothing is more maddening in histories of dress than verbal descriptions of articles of clothing minus illustration. This book could have been so much better if it had omitted some of its half-tone blocks, many of which are from continental sources anyway, and presented a set of diagrams and patterns for each period and garment. The glossary does not make up for this lack and in any case it is woefully lacking in references.

Although medieval *opus anglicanum* is a well ploughed field, the revival of ecclesiastical embroidery, prompted by the ritualist movement in the last

century is little explored and certainly deserved serious study. These items were designed by figures of the stature of William Morris and Sir Ninian Comper (here Cowper) and are of quite outstanding quality.

Indeed the book's most interesting contribution is to chart what happened in post-Reformation England. Copes and surplices went on although denounced as "popish rage". What does emerge is that the clergy are about as much controlled by the edicts of the Church as the laity were by sumptuary laws. It has always had and still has its dandies. Even in 1429 the Bishop of St David's was lamenting that "in this country clergy have no fixed habit assigned to them, either in shape or colour, and therefore may wear any kind of dress which is suitable to their state". On the whole, the clergy are meant to look dowdy, and with this as an objective they are in the main successful.

The last Alistair Maclean I read seemed a burned out case - thin and unconvincing - and I had a sense that the old warhorse was simply past his best, and doing through the motions without conviction. Here, praise be, he's back at sea in World War Two and the facilities seem miraculously restored.

There are saboteurs aboard a British Hospital ship in fiendish frozen seas somewhere off Norway. "Heavy snow, thirty knot wind and visibility zero." Jerry in somewhere about, down below in a U Boat and up above in a flying machine called a Condor; but the Geneva Convention says you don't attack ships with red crosses on them and even Jerry... But, no, the dastardly Kraut comes straight at them out of the cloud and bombs the bridge. Blood, and rubble everywhere but somehow the gallant ship remains afloat.

Can the survivors (including dauntless nursing sisters in the hospital below decks) fight off the combined might of the Luftwaffe and Admiral Doenitz's boys in blue? Who are the traitors on board? Is the good German as good as he seems? Or the bosun as brave? Why does Sister Morrison not smile very much? Should there be quite so much Scotch in the

## THRILLERS

Tim Heald

SAN ANDREAS  
By Alistair Maclean  
(Collins, £8.95)

medicine cupboard? How did Dr Singh find such a good bottle of Bordeaux? And why has an Italian waiter called Mario apparently escaped from the Savoy Grill?

Maestro Maclean answers the most important of these questions as his stricken heroes and heroines limp towards their beleaguered homeland with their lips stiff and their flags flying. It's quite like old times as the Yarnspinner, Laureate shows that he still knows how to shiver our timbers.

● The Dolphin Shore, by Phyllida Barstow (Century, £8.95). I think there should be more lady thriller writers, a few given up Angela Brazil and Enid Blyton to counteract the humourless violence and remorseless plodding of the males. Ms Barstow tells of a little girl lost on the villain infested Turkish seas. There is a

jolly hockey stick air about our first person heroine. When someone nicks some papers, she is frightfully cross - "fuming and puzzling" no less. The theft is "brazen impudence". There is death and destruction - "Explosives? Armenians? I put a hand to my head" - but you don't have to pay too much attention because you know perfectly well this is just one of those stories girls frighten each other with after lights out in the dorm. It's a very NICE little book. Anemic, maybe, but it makes a change.

● The Andropov Deception, by John Rossiter (The Shornood Press, £6.95). Brian Crozier is an expert. His area of expertise is the sort of East-West relations which are meat and drink to many modern thriller writers. Alas it seems in this case at least that the skills are not transferable. And I am unclear about why Mr Crozier has adopted the name of John Rossiter, an accomplished author and Committee Member of the Crime Writers Association. If I were the real John Rossiter I should be most unamused to find my name on a book like this. Next time I write a book I shall call myself Jeffrey Archer.

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# How Whitehall decides whether local councils are on target.



Every year Whitehall sets spending targets for local authorities throughout the country.

This year, under the new ratecapping laws, these targets have become absolute spending limits for those authorities on the so-called "government hit-list."

So it is more important than ever to understand how Whitehall sets its targets in the first place.

According to the 1984 Audit Commission Report (a government document) they are based on information that is inadequate and out of date.

Which is bad enough. But matters are made worse by the fact that Whitehall sets more than one target for each authority.

There's one based on its assessment of general needs throughout the country. And another based on precedents of needs and spending in each area.

The difference between the two is often quite staggering. For example, an authority which actually underspent one target by 4 per cent were judged to be 82 per cent overspenders

against the other target.

Whitehall also has the power to put its own value on particular local needs, or to increase or decrease money allowed for exceptional cases.

So it can and does treat prosperous and poor communities differently. But not quite in the way you might expect.

For example, the biggest overspender in the country (according to government figures) is the extremely affluent City of London. Yet the City of London will not be ratecapped.

The most deprived borough in the country (again according to a government assessment) will be ratecapped.

Even though its spending plans are decidedly modest by comparison, and its needs enormous.

So Whitehall not only makes the rules, it applies them in arbitrary, inefficient and unjust ways.

And as nobody can vote out a Whitehall civil servant, the traditional democratic means of ensuring fair play no longer apply.

## Ratecapping makes no sense.



## SPECTRUM

# Turning non-stop trivia into an art form

## The Times Profile: Terry Wogan

Terry Wogan breaks off from the conversation, swivels in his chair, flicks a switch and says into a microphone: "Yes, I'm sure you are." He is replying to the refrain of *Devoted To You*, which everybody else in the studio has forgotten.

About four million Radio 2 listeners are tuned in, however, and Wogan, half listening behind the off-the-air studio chatter, is ready. A finely-honed reflex has swung into action, but with the Wogan voice back on the air the mechanical perfection of his movements is replaced by fumbling, a few hummed bars and the shuffling of papers.

He has little idea about what is to happen next. He delights on a listener's letter. It proposes that a new roundabout should be named after him. He laughs, improvises a little on the idea, flicks on the next record and swivels back into the conversation.

The irony is that almost all of those million listeners could not care less about *Devoted To You* or any of the music in his two-and-a-half hour show. They switch on and they stay switched on because of Wogan. The show is about

**'I was pioneer of the radio pause. I never subscribed to the view that there should be noise all the time'**

music in the same sense that *Dallas* is about oil: not at all.

Wogan himself is indifferent to most of the records and never listens to music at home. The records are there just to provide breathing space between his flights of fancy and listeners' letters.

It is all done, he explains, "on the wing". He works without notes and the first glimpse he has of the letters is when he picks them up to read on the air. Hence the unusual number of pauses on his show. "I pioneered the pause on radio," he claims. "I never subscribed to the view that there had to be noise all the time; you should give people time to think."

It is a breathtaking high-wire act of broadcasting technique, but after 12 years nobody believes that Terry is about to fall accidentally. He is preparing to jump off deliberately, however. On 28 December he is to leave Radio 2 to prepare for his three-nights-a-week television chat show, which starts in February on BBC1. The announcement that this was about to happen doubled his weekly mail from 1,000 to 2,000 letters, most playing along with his little conceit that he had been sacked.

Perhaps one of the most impressive tributes to the way in which Wogan has moulded his radio audience is the number of letters written in flawless Woganese, an ironic, mockingly pompous dialect of English especially suited to the elaboration of private fantasies.

There was, for example, the prolonged debate between Wogan and his public about why, if the earth was spinning, it was not possible simply to rise off the ground in a balloon and wait for Hawaii to come

round. Or what would happen if a hole was dug through to Australia and Wogan jumped down it? It was popularly assumed that he would land lightly on his feet on Bondi Beach.

The essence of the Wogan style lies in his ability to transform any crisis into a fragment of witty triviality. Nothing that can go wrong cannot be laughed off. His characteristic movement is a light, athletic skip, contrasting ironically with his burly build. His typical gag is the thinly-veiled put-down, then palliated effortlessly by self-deprecation.

With Wogan in charge the pleasure lies in the discovery that he has forgotten to put a record on the turntable and hearing how he extricates himself.

Then, of course, there is the daily patter with Jimmy Young, the disc jockey whose show follows his. Ostensibly Young is coming in to plug his own show, but he is there really for the backchat. Young enters, stands over Wogan's desk and tries to run idly through his schedule. Wogan decries, guffaws, snorts and huris insults. Young fights back, ever more gamely as the years have gone by; then they both retire unscathed.

All over the country, housewives go back to the children, and motorists notice that the lights have been green for some time. It is a national event, a daily ritual.

Wogan winds up the show just as the clock shows 10am. Wind-ups are sensitive moments. Poorly handled they can cause a sickening loss of listeners between programmes. "Was that too slick?" he asks with perhaps calculated nervousness. "I don't like it too slick."

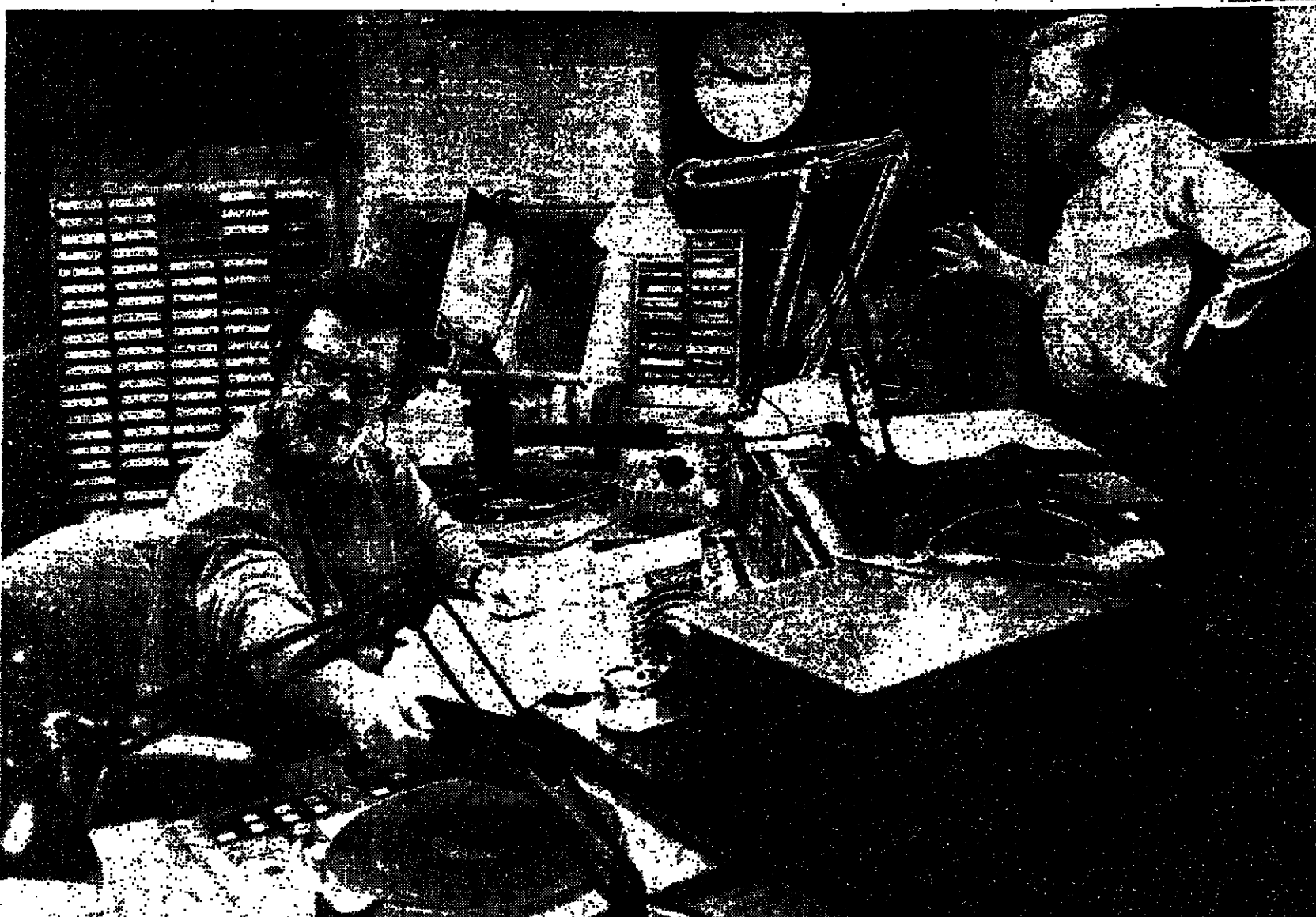
"Nice programme, Ter," says the producer. What else could he say? Wogan has created the market, defined the criteria. Producers do not have the vocabulary to cope with unarguable success.

Next on this particular morning is a recording for Irish television to be transmitted at Christmas. The white broadcasting lie on this occasion is that he is speaking live, so he calmly recreates his Christmas Day for the benefit of the old country without a flicker of uncertainty at his little illusion. Gloria Hunniford, who is recorded next, is not so good: a shadow crosses her face as she makes the effort to lie.

Next, accompanied by a small and slightly baffling entourage, it is coffee at St Georges Hotel, which overlooks Broadcasting House. Waiters are solicitous, and guests and passers-by pause to note The Presence. Wogan is an environment, partly because of the pervasive quality of radio, but also because the world feels it has a claim on his personality.

He is like British Telecom, only the number of letters written in flawless Woganese, an ironic, mockingly pompous dialect of English especially suited to the elaboration of private fantasies.

There was, for example, the prolonged debate between Wogan and his public about why, if the earth was spinning, it was not possible simply to rise off the ground in a balloon and wait for Hawaii to come



Flying the airwaves by the seat of his pants. Wogan in his studio with 'rival' Jimmy Young

about the television series begins to emerge. He knows he is better at radio - the medium that has nurtured and fed his enormous popularity. Cutting loose at the age of 46 is an awesome prospect, but there is a curious invulnerability about Wogan and it is this which seems to lie at the heart of his success.

He was born into a middle-class household in Limerick. His father managed a grocery store and was subsequently promoted to a better job in Dublin. Wogan had "the sense beaten into me" by the Jesuits at Belvedere, Joyce's old school, and made his way into Irish

**'The BBC have Robin Day, Esther Rantzen, the Two Ronnies and me. The other side have old BBC people not working well'**

broadcasting via banking and a seemingly unproductive year studying philosophy.

With his wife, Helen, and his first son, Alan, he gambled on Britain in 1969 as stand-in for Jimmy Young on BBC radio. A first child, a daughter, had died at the age of three weeks, a tragedy that seems to stand oddly alone in his largely untroubled progress.

Since then his rise to the top has been relentless. Some years after being given his own radio show, he tested the water in television via chat shows and *Blankety-Blank*, a game show of transcendent banality.

Throughout he gives the impression of moving systematically towards a style which would allow him simply to be himself, to be allowed to ad-lib and subvert mildly to his heart's



The Charmer at work: "I don't like it too slick."

content. This can be done only with the full confidence of the industry itself. Turning up scriptless and unprepared is not something you can foist on the average producer.

"It's the only small talent I have," he says. "You can look at research, but not for too long. An interview is an interview. The important thing is what you get out of the person."

The real point, however, is that, deeply as Wogan thinks about what he is doing, it is the mountain that has come to him. The personality, for the moment, works, and broadcasting has had to adapt to accommodate him, not the other way round. In part this has been an inevitable step. The theatrical traditions of British broadcasting had long worn thin with their patronising and highly prepared approach.

Wogan does not have a single drop of theatrical blood in his veins and believes that television and radio trickery should be dispensed with. "It's not an audience out there: an audience

is when somebody laughs in the stalls and then somebody else laughs in the circle. But with radio, if somebody laughs in Stoke Poges it doesn't mean listeners are going to smile in Barnes."

"I believe the way to do radio is without an excessive sense of the technicalities. I've never thought it mattered tuppence whether the record was playing at the right speed."

Transferring this art - pauses, fumbles and all - to television may prove impossible. Yet he is determined. He wants the show to be live. "What you are paid for is walking in off the street and being able to talk. What the hell is the point of appearing in front of a camera - for which you are being paid a lot of money - carrying a big clipboard? Anybody could do that."

Simple as this may sound, it creates immense difficulties: guests who dry up, rows, and the problem of finding a sufficiently flexible style of direction to cope. Furthermore, most American guests, on the

chat show circuit, are profoundly intimidated when they hear that "Wogan" will not provide a list of questions.

Wogan knows the problem well enough and points out, defensively, that a seemingly prickly customer like *Dallas* star Victoria Principal has already recorded a second interview with him for broadcasting at Christmas. He was, however, helped by some unexpected prompting.

"She was in Los Angeles and I was in London, and the fellow who was photographing her in L.A. had a male nude *Playboy* centrefold which he was unrolling in front of her. The whole interview is punctuated by hysterical giggles. It was a beautiful interview for all that."

But he knows he works best on television with the home team of guests who know his style, who know what to expect in the way of mild offence. Woganese is a private language, known to several millions, but private nonetheless, and it takes years of training to become fluent.

He thinks his British audience has now had enough tuition to accept him on television, but there are two dangers - that the vocabulary is too narrow to cope with the huge variety of guests required for a three-times-a-week chat show, and that the magic will simply cease to function.

The end would not come overnight. The momentum is too great and there is a lot of institutional backing. "Obviously we want it to be right. There's an awful lot riding on it. If it doesn't work it means that Michael Grade and Bill Cotton have made a big mistake and, not only that, they've wasted me. They've destroyed probably one of their biggest assets. They have Robin Day, Esther Rantzen, the Two Ronnies and me."

Penalties for drug usage are fairly stiff in Switzerland (writes a lawyer), and whatever the doctor says it's going to be pretty embarrassing if you're lying there with a broken leg, putting away, and the first people to arrive are the Swiss Drug Squad, who have their own Mountain Drug Ring Busting team, and pretty efficient they are too. Hard men, as well, I can't say I'd relish the thought of being beaten up lying there in the snow with a bad leg. Still, it's up to you. That'll be £60 - I'll let you have the bill.

Well, that's it (concludes Rudolph). There you are, lying in the snow, as the dusk descends and the stars come out - and what stars! They are particularly lovely this time of year, and if you have your chart of the night sky with you, it will be an unforgettable experience. If you haven't, of course, it will be lost on you. So do remember when you go out skiing, always to have the following with you:

Boots, laces, saw, sandpaper, insurance documents, mini-bar, Primus stove, several marijuana joints and a night sky chart.

Have fun! Hope you survive!

What does the other side have? A lot of old BBC people who are not working as well as they did at the BBC.

Therein lies the final invulnerability. Wogan, big as he is, is not really taking the risks. He merely turns up, propped, apart from his personality, and it either works or it doesn't.

**'A lot of my work is very banal, I recognize it's only TV or radio, hardly brain surgery'**

Directors, producers, managers, some of them, at least, are not as confident that it persists - that bond between him and his public. Throughout his conversation, throughout his version of himself, there is the perpetual disclaimer: "Here I am, take me or leave me."

"I'm not a go-getter," he said. "I'm not a person who knocks on doors. I expect things to happen for me, or I walk away from it. It's the same in relationships. I don't worry about money; either as long as there is enough of it. People talk about pressure in show business. What pressure? There is

some, but it's not insurmountable and you're well-cushioned by the money you're being paid. People can always lose TV series, but they retain a certain popularity so I don't think I'm ever going to starve. I don't care that much. I recognise that it's only TV or radio, it's not brain surgery. A lot of the work I do is trivial, it's very banal."

Back at home near Maidenhead, with his wife and three children, he avoids talk about work and they hardly ever watch his shows.

The huge burden of identity normally given by Ireland to its sons seems lightly borne. "Oh, I always get the same question: 'How do you feel about the bomb at Harrods?' Well, you feel about twice as bad as anybody else."

Although his wife remains a practising Catholic, with Wogan the Jesuits failed to imprint their idea of identity; it leaves an eloquent void behind all the "personality". "I still read about religion a lot," he says. "I'm interested to know about the facts - I was meant to accept, but I left almost 20 years ago. Now I don't know what I am."

## HIS CAREER

1938: Born August 3 in Limerick. Educated Crescent College, Limerick, and Belvedere College, Dublin. 1963: Joined RTE as announcer. 1965-67: Involved in various programmes for BBC Radio. 1968: Married Helen Joyce. 1969: The Wogans and their first son, Alan, move permanently to London. 1972: Takes over breakfast show on Radio 2. 1973: Variety Club BBC Radio Personality of the Year. 1977: Reaches number 15 in the charts with his recording of *The Floral Dance*. 1982: First Wogan chat show. 1979-84: TV *Times* television Personality of the Year six years running. 1976/1982: Radio Industry Club Award, Radio Personality of the Year. 1982: Pye Award for Radio Personality of the Year. Lives with wife, two sons and one daughter at Taplow, Buckinghamshire, describes himself in *Who's Who* as "loving broadcaster", lists recreations as tennis, golf, swimming, reading and writing and clubs as Lord's Taverners, London Irish Rugby Football, Stoke Poges Golf and Temple Golf. Publications: *Banished* (1979), *The Day Job* (1981) and *To Horse, To Horse* (1982).

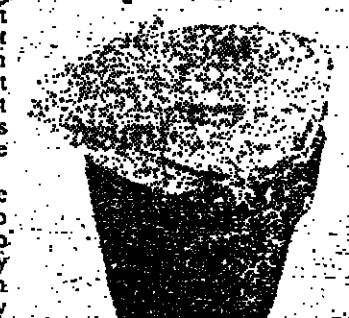
some, but it's not insurmountable and you're well-cushioned by the money you're being paid. People can always lose TV series, but they retain a certain popularity so I don't think I'm ever going to starve. I don't care that much. I recognise that it's only TV or radio, it's not brain surgery. A lot of the work I do is trivial, it's very banal."

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**Bryan Appleyard**



The day's over: Wogan's mail reaches the bin

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 520)

**ACROSS**

8. Ruling order (13)
9. Can (3)
10. Adjust (5)
11. Surroundings (9)
12. Sacred song (5)
13. Ballet lights (7)
14. German messiah (7)
15. Turn-ups (5)
16. Youth period (5,4)
17. Wrath (3)
18. Just possessor (8,5)

**DOWN**

1. Repressed (4,2)
2. Verse (6)
3. Aberrant (8)
4. Eyslash (6)
5. Lower jaw front (4)
6. Take place (6)
7. Authenticate (6)
8. Low coin (3)
9. Surgical cut (8)
10. Not on (3)
11. Prayer beads (6)
12. Large stingray (6)
13. Counting frame (6)
14. Quaker (6)
15. Adore (4)
16. Encephalogram (17)
17. Epiphany (24)
18. Locality (13)
19. Dual (2)
20. Drudge (7)
21. Panda (6)
22. Down (1)
23. Recherche (3)
24. Tudor (4)
25. Trash (5)
26. Wary (6)
27. Rabbi (6)
28. Males (6)
29. Woof (6)
30. Prize (2)
31. Pay up (22)
32. Bard (23)
33. Files (6)

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**Punch**

**Broken, but not rib-cracking**

**moreover... Miles Kington**

Hello, it's skiing time again! And we all know what that means, don't we? (Writes Uncle Rudolph, your unbreakable guide to the piste). Yes, snow and pine trees, and blue skies, but above all - breaking your leg. That's what skiing is all about. You're out there, carelessly swooping down the lonely slope through the lovely trees when suddenly crack! you're over and you have broken your leg.

Well, there's nobody in sight, because you've gone off on that lovely deserted run, and you've got to do something about it yourself, so I'm going to tell you now how to deal with it. Memorize this article immediately. Better still, take it with you and get it out when you've broken your leg.

Hello! Just broken your leg, have you? Don't panic. What you have got to do is straighten your leg as far as possible and then tie one ski to it as a splint. This will mean using your bootlaces to tie the ski on with. The other ski you can use as a crutch to hobble home with.

Unfortunately your boots will now fall off because you've taken the laces out. Also, the ski will be far too long to use as a splint, not to mention a crutch, so you will have to saw them down to the right length.

This means you should have brought with you spare boot laces, a saw and sandpaper. Did you? You didn't? Goodness, you are in trouble, aren't you? Perhaps we'd better bring in a real doctor.

Hello (writes a hospital administrator). Sorry we couldn't get a real doctor, but he was out playing golf. Anyway, there you are with a broken leg.

So before you get a doctor out to look at your leg and cause us endless trouble and rescheduling of appointments, have a chemist look at it. A lot of these chaps are very good. Don't bother us. Get a chemist. The French for chemist, by the way, is *pharmacie*. Not at all. Glad to have helped. Cheers.

Cheers! (writes Jeremy, barman at the Coconut Glades). While you're lying there in agony, a drink would be the ideal thing to cheer you up, so I've devised a Githwein Mexican Special for you - that's right, it's a wine plus tequila concoction.

Of course, you'll need four or five different bottles, plus a primus stove, and if you've left them behind with your documents, saw, boot laces etc, then I'm afraid I can't help you. You'll just have to wait for one of those dogs with brandy barrels to come along. Cheers.

Sorry for late (writes a real doctor), but I was out playing golf. And I'm afraid the bad news is that brandy is out. Alcohol opens the veins at the surface and gives you a feeling of warmth, but you know, it also takes away the blood from vital internal organs, and then we're into heart attack country. What we need is something that closes the veins. And the only thing we've ever found like that is marijuana. Yes, odd isn't it? So get out a joint and light up.

Penalties for drug usage are fairly stiff in Switzerland (writes a lawyer), and whatever the doctor says it's going to be pretty embarrassing if you're lying there with a broken leg, putting away, and the first people to arrive are the Swiss Drug Squad, who have their own Mountain Drug Ring Busting team, and pretty efficient they are too. Hard men, as well, I can't say I'd relish the thought of being beaten up lying there in the snow with a bad leg. Still, it's up to you. That'll be £60 - I'll let you have the bill.

Well, that's it (concludes Rudolph). There you are, lying in the snow, as the dusk descends and the stars come out - and what stars! They are particularly lovely this time of year, and if you have your chart of the night sky with you, it will be an unforgettable experience. If you haven't, of course, it will be lost on you. So do remember when you go out skiing, always to have the following with you:

Boots, laces, saw, sandpaper, insurance documents, mini-bar, Primus stove, several marijuana joints and a night sky chart.

Have fun! Hope you survive!

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## THE ARTS

**Back to London and Shakespeare**  
**at the National after a long, long**  
**absence, Irene Worth talked to**  
**John Higgins about her career**

## Never stick with the same guru

Irene Worth reckons that her return to London after a lengthy absence to play Volturna in the National's *Coriolanus* which opened on Saturday, delayed a few days by the director Peter Hall's brief illness, has given her a re-run of her career. On her first afternoon back, there on television was the old black and white movie of *The Two Mrs. Carris*, the play in which she made her Broadway debut with Elisabeth Bergner. She walked into first rehearsals to find out that Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* was not other than Molnar's *The Play of the Thing*, in which she had appeared with Clive Brook three years after that Broadway debut. And to complete the reminiscence of things past there was also at the National *A Little Hotel on the Side* - none other than Feydeau's *Hotel Paradis* in which Miss Worth had partnered Alec Guinness at the old Winter Garden in Drury Lane.

It is no stranger to the National Theatre company, Miss Worth, who played the role of Jocasta in Peter Brook's *Oedipus* during the Old Vic days is not going to be forgotten. She had expected "a homecoming, albeit in a new house". But there instead, in those first few days, she was reminded of the past. Volturna, she says, is a role for which she has been "revving-up" for twenty years. She acted it on BBC television in the Edith Maslin production on Saturday, delayed a few days by the director Peter Hall's brief illness, has given her a re-run of her career. On her first afternoon back, there on television was the old black and white movie of *The Two Mrs. Carris*, the play in which she made her Broadway debut with Elisabeth Bergner. She walked into first rehearsals to find out that Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* was not other than Molnar's *The Play of the Thing*, in which she had appeared with Clive Brook three years after that Broadway debut. And to complete the reminiscence of things past there was also at the National *A Little Hotel on the Side* - none other than Feydeau's *Hotel Paradis* in which Miss Worth had partnered Alec Guinness at the old Winter Garden in Drury Lane.

Very difficult - and the older you get the more difficult it becomes. Will that earlier television Volturna have any influence on her present one? "None whatsoever. The medium is different. I hate repeating myself. I'm not the same person that I was a year ago or the year before that. I've lived more and I've suffered more, and one of the prime consolations of living is that we can always hope for change."

The wait is unlikely to have done any harm because Irene Worth was some way into her career before she tackled either of the playwrights with whom she is most associated, Ibsen and Chekhov.

"Yes, everything I've done has been late. I was still at university in California when some of my contemporaries were on their way to being movie stars in Hollywood, and when later I was teaching school they were movie stars. That's probably why I've never played Juliet or Cordelia. Nor have I done Cleopatra. It was offered, but I reckoned I would have had to compromise, so I turned it down, and there's the greatest regret of all: no Nina in *The Seagull*."

Irene Worth: "Everything I've done has been late"



**The Wiz**  
**Lyric, Hammersmith**

From his record as a director of American musicals, a promoter of black theatre, and a pioneer of the electronic fairy tale, you can see why Peter James has settled on this Harlem adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz* for the Lyric's Christmas show.

It certainly looks and sounds stunning. Dorothy's Kansas shack takes off in flashes of sealed-beam lighting, and once she has made the trip down the Yellow Brick Road (enacted by two slinky dancers carrying yellow finger-pots), the Big Green Apple comes into view as a vision of emerald skyscrapers, sparking under revolving spokes of light. The Wiz himself first arises on a hydraulic plinth attired in a parachute-sized cloak, and makes his departure by helicopter. Also there is a 10-piece band laying down a powerful jazz beat for most of the evening, until Charlie Small's score subsides into uplifting Broadway clichés.

The story, however, has gone up in smoke. *The Wiz* does not simply relocate Frank Baum's fable in Manhattan: it also transforms it into a black community show, and that means there can be no villains. It is OK to make affectionate fun of Dorothy's travelling companions (who include a fine comic acrobat in Clarke Peters's Scarecrow). But there is no question of unmasking the Wiz himself. He may be a trickster, but he has made it to the top, and his big number, "Believe in Yourself" is promptly taken up by the Good Witch.

As for the supposedly wicked

## Theatre

### A wizard evening



Celena Duncan, with the searing voice, as Dorothy

Evillene (Earlene Bentley), she comes on strong as a red-hot enchantress reclining in a bower of roulette wheels and fruit machines, bellying the blues at her cringing menials. But there is no real harm in her, and she is liquefied in no time after capturing Dorothy. The only outright villain is Uncle Sam, whose malevolent white features confront the scared travellers from a giant poster in the forest.

Plot aside, William F. Brown's book is charmingly

characterized and witty: as in its handling of Green Apple officials, and in presenting the Lion (Clum Jones) as a would-be baseball hero. There are some fine, searing voices, particularly from Celena Duncan and Earlene Bentley. And when dance takes over from dialogue, as with two showgirl poppies or Evillene's team of black-leather monkeys, even the story comes together.

Irving Wardle

## Hairspray and the Mohican ritual

**Mohicans**  
**Donmar Warehouse**

It remains to be seen whether Garry Lyons's play will attract the Wet Paint Company's loyal punk following to leaven the Warehouse audience. But for the rest of us, Jim Wall and Nick Legard as two Mohicans from Woodhouse, Leeds 6, give a riveting account of their lifestyle. Water and sugar makes the best spunk, they get through three jumbo cans of hairspray a week, and "On a bald bit, you can write 'Fascist' with a felt tip to cover up your acne". Hair takes an hour a day, which may

not be in the Queen Charlotte class but certainly rises to ritual level.

And that is the point: the play actually presses the Indian parallel. Jobless punks are persecuted for their lifestyle (though non-acceptance is surely its point), and eventually it comes to sounds of an Indian massacre accompanying mother's description of her ordeal at the DHSS, and the boys shooting a shopkeeper and being reincarnated as redskins.

All this is too much to swallow, though Mr Lyons stresses the chants, war gear and ritual offers of Tetley's, and even makes the old dear in the

corner shop (Gina McKee) a sort of local Witch of Endor. Graham Devlin's Major Road Company production is most convincing at grassroots level, especially Gill Wright as a red-eyed mother, terrified of the electricity bill and living on Valium and the *Sun* crossword. As her sly offspring, Mr Legard nips up to Woodhouse Ridge for a sniff of Evo-Suk (Evo to initiate) or steals a squirt of café ketchup in a plastic bag, while Mr Wall's big soft moaner is memorably greeted by a girlfriend with "Eyoop, misery-guns".

Anthony Masters

## Galleries

### Purist and protester

**John Deakin/Edwin Smith**  
**Victoria and Albert Museum**

John Deakin and Edwin Smith were both born in 1912; Smith died in 1974, Deakin in 1972. Both, also, came from English working-class families, and both nurtured initial ambitions to be painters. But there the likeness ends. Smith, though he never stopped drawing in his notebooks, very soon decided that he was completely happy to be a photographer. In the 1930s he experimented with a few genres - the nude, for instance - with which one would not ever associate him, and some of the earliest pictures in the exhibition, and the resplendent book which accompanies it, *Edwin Smith: Photographs 1933-1974* (Thames and Hudson, £18), are of people in the streets of London or entertainers in a Home Counties carnival and look surprisingly like, say, Bill Brandt's of the same period.

After the war, however, he found his way towards that specialization which helps to make a Smith photograph immediately recognizable: landscape, especially close-up details of landscape, and even more, architecture and interiors. It would do him an injustice to suggest that it was solely the subject-matter which distinguishes his work: there is a precise appreciation of texture, and the way the light falls across



Deakin's view of poet W.S. Graham (detail)

different stones or woods or fabrics which no other photographer has quite achieved. Nor does a very English feeling for quaintness (not for nothing was he a favourite artist of *The Saturday Book*) detract from a purist rigour and discipline: even his little jokes have to make perfect artistic sense.

Deakin was not interested in the quaint and twee, at least as a photographer, made jokes. He saved his eccentricity for his life: his art was always head-on and unsparring. He seems to have been generally self-hating and self-destructive, never liked being a photographer or felt qualified with it, and deliberately sabotaged those who tried to collect and preserve his work

or indeed commission him to do more of it - all in favour of paintings which even his nearest and dearest universally agree were ghastly. As a photographer his forte was the depiction of people. His volume of views of *London Today* (1949), though it has its admirers, strikes me as rather ordinary, but there is nothing in the least ordinary about his amazing, uncluttered close-ups of Francis Bacon, W.S. Graham or indeed himself: in the first two cases somehow even the extreme delapidation of the only known surviving prints seems oddly suitable and expressive. The show is subtitled "The Salvage of a Photographer".

John Russell Taylor

## Concert

### The strongest of French impressions

**Lontano**  
**St John's**

Lontano's current concert series has the title "French Impressions" ("The French Connection" must have been sorely tempting, but might have given the wrong impression) and is based around an extremely characterful group of composers including Xenakis, Boulez and Debussy. None of those three were in Tuesday night's third instalment, however, instead the focus fell on André Bon - entirely unknown to me, a Messiaen pupil born in 1946 - and on the altogether more approachably Frenchified music of Poulenc, Ibert and Milhaud.

By way of contrast, the other concerts have offered English music by James Dillon: this one gave instead a welcome chance to hear again Simon Bainbridge's 1983 *Concertante in moto perpetuo*, a bubbling, intoxicating mixture of repetitive fragments, relentlessly sustained, providing a vehicle for Gareth Hulce's oboe to pit itself against the equally furious activity of the accompanying ensemble. I could identify with the composer's description of the work as a character study of his energetic, two-year-old daughter, but there was more light and air, more sense of respite and newly renewed energy, than the *moto perpetuo* description might imply.

André Bon's *Fancy* fell on sounds far less active, though there were moments of similarly frenetic activity in this eleven-and-a-half minute fantasy, it was the period of wandering, gentle exploration, signalled by the atmospheric playing of Ingrid Culliford as the fine flute soloist, that caught the ear. But there was less continuity to sustain the listener than in Bainbridge's invention: the textures were dominated by the colourful effects of tuned percussion, harp, celesta and guitar, and drifted with sometimes dangerous insubstantiality.

But there was a very high energy quotient in John Hare's exuberant run-through of Ibert's *Concertino da Camera* (an aptly modest title for a work which needs modesty) and it was certainly worthwhile enduring this less than profound experience to have Hare take part in the concluding Milhaud *La Création du Monde*, a really very fine account of this flash-in-the-pan score, in which Odaline de la Martinez's direction caught perfectly the mix of jazzy irreverence and native wishfulness. It is extraordinary how powerfully Milhaud's mixture still comes across compared with most of his milk-and-water output: the strongest of French impressions.

Nicholas Kenyon

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## Television

### Nearly flesh and blood

The single eye of a camera is an ungrudging spectator, offering the actor close scrutiny without encouragement, precluding the scope afforded by the dimensions of a stage.

On the latter, Alec McCowen is a veteran soloist and successful, lately with Brian Clark's *Kipling*. Last night on Channel 4 he took on the heady eye with Kipling and much self-confidence for the best part of 90 minutes, and, I thought, with his self-confidence, surviving even the commercial breaks.

Kipling would surely, while remounting the *Kipling* with his people, have approved. He was a man with an obsessive, halfway, almost Brian Clark's, man with a slight obsession to produce it - through the great man's eyes.

Highly possibly Kipling might have been the man to

reads and sounds to have been; that he was an establishment critic as much as an establishment man; not belonging to it but bound by some self-identified order of priorities which he believed to be inherent in the English race.

To anyone born after 1935, his voice must surely ring oddly, but as an engine he is interesting, and Messrs Clark and McCowen made him as near flesh and blood as may be.

Perhaps the best clue to that imperial, unquenchable bewilderment of his childhood, isolated from his parents and cruel. No doubt the luckless boy exhorted himself to be brave and child, into man, kept at it.

BC4's *The Box of Delights* is scheduled at a time which shows it from the reach of many adults, which is their loss. The wolves are running before 5 pm. Alan Seymour's adaptation

of this Massfield classic is faithful and superb.

The production, by Paul Stone, directed by Kenny Rye, a name Massfield would surely have thought apt, is made possible on television by the vast advance in special effects techniques. They are used without damage to content.

Last night again, much knobbling and scrobbling with Devin Stunfield as the hero, Kay, taking special effects and all in his stride, at large in the villains' lair. The stunts rise to the occasion, too. Robert Stephens flying from intimacy to rage most unpredictably, his partner Patricia Quinn, as Sylvia Daisy Pounce, matching him marvellously.

For deprived adults without a magic video box themselves, let us hope there will be the indulgence of a weekend repeat.

Dennis Hackett

Esä-Pekka Salonen has been appointed principal guest conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra from January 1. Salonen, a young Finnish conductor, made his debut with the Philharmonia at the Royal Festival Hall in September 1983 when he learnt and conducted Mahler's Third Symphony at a week's notice with outstanding success.

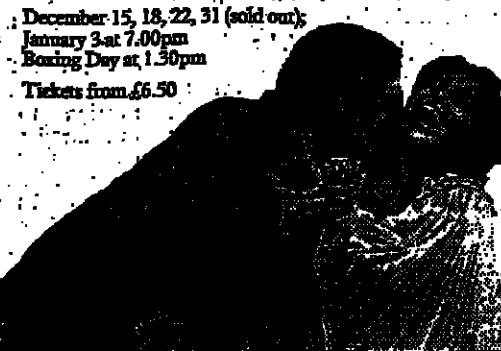
Next year's Wexford Festival will cover three centuries of opera. On the opening night there will be Catalani's *La Wally*, first performed in 1892; this will be followed by Handel's *Ariodante* (1735) and Kurt Weill's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* (1930). The festival opens on October 23 and, as usual, runs for 10 days.

Next year's Bath Festival, from May 24 to June 9, is to include a celebration of Hungarian life and culture, as well as much music by the twentieth-century masters, Bach, Handel and Scarlatti.

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 Barry Wordsworth, Jan 1, 9, 18  
 Choreography: after Lev Ivanov  
 Design: Julia Trevelyan Oman  
 Lighting: John B. Read  
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 at 7.30pm  
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## PRESCRIBING PROPAGANDA

Professional interest is outraged. That powerful professional trade union, the British Medical Association, circulates its members urging them to frighten into political mobilization vulnerable patients (who have conveniently never set eyes on family practitioner committees' cash accounts). Even more terrifying, the BMA proclaims itself the keeper of "fundamental principles" of the National Health Service: the same system of health care which forty years ago it fought to kill, the system born of BMA filibusters, wrangling and compromise. That distinguished elderly doctor turned politician, Lord Hill of Luton, source of socialist medicine on the BMA's behalf, must be excused his hollow chuckling.

The BMA's hyperbole against the Government's modest proposals to exclude certain classes of drug from NHS prescription is regrettable. The espousal in advertising placed by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry of the cause of the poor and the elderly is risible; let it plead the case of Hoffman-La Roche and Eli Lilly (foreign companies that will be worst affected by the proposals) instead. If these attempts to whip up revolt among Tory backbenchers are modelled on the protests over student grants, the signs are they will backfire: backbenchers are not going to be pressured by American-style write-ins and carefully prepared tear-off slips. The hysteria, however, should not prevent a point being made against the Government. Though right in principle on this issue, Mr. Fowler should leave himself room to alter the practical arrangements for identifying the new black-list of drugs. He can still both benefit patient and

doctor and keep faith with the taxpayers.

A year ago, in protectionist mood, the Government backed down in the face of the pharmaceutical industry's strenuous lobbying. The proposal then - supported more or less by the medical profession - was to end the prescription of name-brand drugs in favour of generics. For example, diazepam would be prescribed by the GP if a tranquillizer were required rather than the more expensive brand Valium. Mr. Fowler still faces the same not-cash-limited bill for general practice and the still-growing cost of NHS drugs and he has returned to the battleground with a revised plan. In certain categories, "home cures" such as cough mixtures and tranquillizers, all preparations except those on a strictly delimited list are to be excluded from NHS prescription. The result, the Government says, could be a saving of £100 million a year, purchased at minimal loss of clinical elbow room and, given the nature of the preparations, at no danger to patients.

The response, because self-interested, largely ignores the volume of self-medication that already takes place; it is anomalous that an array of tonics, analgesics and indigestion tablets easily bought over a chemist's counter should be available on prescription. For Labour's spokesman to cry that if a drug is not worth prescribing it should not be available at all embodies the typical inability of the collectivist to trust people in their habitual self-diagnosis and self-prescription for a range of common-or-garden ailments. On the basis of the lists published by the Government there is little merit in the ABPT's claim that

limited supply will penalize the poor. The first needs amendment, but there is no reason why a sufficient number of alternative (cheaper) vitamins and sedatives should not remain for prescription: to substitute a generic for Mogadon is no hardship. The Government's plan is a modest and overdue reform.

Yet, at the margins of diagnosis and therapy there may be cases where only a specific pharmaceutical, name-branded or no, fits the patient's condition. Were his drug excluded, there would be discrimination against the patient. To avoid this we have to rely on the probity of the doctor. The advice given Mr. Fowler. Here perhaps the government has been hasty. Whatever the BMA may claim, the medical profession is not monolithic. The government would be well able to put together a senior and genuinely independent committee with a brief to label the "less important" drugs and so reassure a public which treasures the opinion of medical professionals. Certainly if there were to be further restrictions on prescription drugs (the limited list already operates widely and uncontroversially in hospitals) there is a case for such a committee and perhaps also an appeals mechanism.

Meanwhile let Mr. Clarke defend his corner and educate the public with vigour - some of his recent performances against the BMA have had veritably Bevanite robustness. The policy is armoured by the need for NHS economy and administrative rationalization. The doctors and the druggists may want to turn the issue into a re-run of student grants and so freeze policy-making in public health. They have to fail.

## LEARNING THE LESSON THROUGH DEFEAT

The exit of Mr. David MacDowall from the directorship of the Polytechnic of North London is, unmistakably, a defeat. It is a defeat for due process, for academic self-government; it undermines those who through the past nine months of turmoil have tried to keep foremost the polytechnic's essential purposes of teaching and study. Here is another blow to the reputation of the Inner London Education Authority at the careless hands of its present leader, Mrs. Frances Morrell - who has the gall to advertise her stewardship as a case against race-capping. Meanwhile Mr. MacDowall's departure is a victory, a vindication of disruption and vandalism on the far left and callow publicity-seeking on the far right.

To Mr. Terence Miller, the former director, is attributed the remark that his job needed no high intelligence but low cunning. Perhaps this has been a department where the scholarly Mr. MacDowall, a numismatist set adrift on the urban sea of the Holloway Road, has been lacking. Perhaps in recent months a better politician than he would have steered a defter line between judges, students, lawyers and Mrs. Morrell. But what

kind of institution is it that demands such skills?

The PNL harbours a cadre of young and not so youthful extremists, some identifiably members of the Socialist Workers' Party, others not; their brethren are responsible for much of the disruption that bedevils schools and municipal administration elsewhere in inner London. These leaders have followers: for too many of the polytechnic's lecturers teaching is a political game and their institutional obligations nil; for too long the absence of academic discipline has encouraged unaffiliated students to believe they can demonstrate and disrupt at no cost. These elements in the polytechnic gave Mr. Patrick Harrington and his National Front friends their chance.

Have done with the trouble-makers: close the polytechnic, some say. But that is neither practicable nor just. On a split site and in an array of subjects the PNL does good work. To abandon it would be the ultimate capitulation to the enemies of reason who have had such a run in North London. There is moreover a clear course of action for the polytechnic's directorate and for all those - the education officer of the ILEA, Labour

politicians prepared to stand up to Mrs. Morrell, Her Majesty's Inspectors, the Council for National Academic Awards - concerned with its teaching.

On one side the polytechnic authorities must give no ground to those who would in the New Year continue the campaign of disruption: they must be prosecuted by means of the internal disciplinary code and in the courts if necessary. Similarly Mr. Harrington: until now as a properly matriculated student he has been irrelevant to his status. He has however recently made racist remarks which are the subject of a complaint lodged by fellow students under the disciplinary code. Let that be adjudicated calmly and judiciously. A conviction would be slight grounds for expelling Mr. Harrington but it would confirm the polytechnic directorate's attempts to organize for him separate tuition. Mr. MacDowall's former colleagues owe him every effort to continue his work of administration and they, like him until patience and courage gave out, must resist interference from Mrs. Morrell who would impose her fashionable dogma of race and class in every school and college.

## AN ENGLISH SAINT REMEMBERED

His was a hard death, partly because of his physical distress, and partly because he was very frightened of dying and going to Hell (though he probably had less cause for the latter apprehension than most of us). Nevertheless, even in extremis the idiosyncrasy of the man was always breaking in. He refused sedatives, because he was not going to "meet God in a state of idiosyncrasy, or with opium in his head". For some years he had refused invitations to visit Westminster Abbey: "No, not while I can keep out." He was worried about his black friend, and servant he was leaving: "Attend, Francis, to the salvation of your soul, which is the object of greatest importance." He quoted Macbeth to the doctor, "Canst thou minister to a mind diseased...?" and composed a fervent prayer, "Bless my friends: have mercy upon all men." A young woman insisted on seeing him as he was dying, and he managed to say, "God bless you, my dear." His last words were the stiff-lipped old Roman gladiatorial ones, *I am moriturus*.

Samuel Johnson died in the evening of 13 December 1784, two centuries ago. He is a more suitable patron saint for the English than our Palestinian soldier-saint, George, or that other candidate for the role, Thomas à Becket. For one thing Johnson spoke English. More than that, his work as lexicographer and Hercules of English literature, helped to make English the world language that it has become. The chief glory of the English is their language; and Johnson's *Dictionary*, the only one in any language compiled by

a writer of genius, had a lot to do with its rise to glory. It is an irony that might have amused him eventually, after a bear's growl or two, that his *Life* written by his young Scottish friend is far more widely read than any of Johnson's own more literary works.

Samuel would have regarded as blasphemous any proposal for his canonization: he had a highly developed and neurotic sense of his own worthlessness. In that way, at least, he was not very English. But in his life he embodied many of the qualities that we like to think are ideally English. He was immensely clever, without ever becoming a remote intellectual. He was a robust patriot, without becoming a chauvinist, or losing his warm sympathy for all races and colours, from Hottentots to Princes of Abyssinia, and even Scotsmen. He was a respectable, dignified, sober citizen, who was never too prim for a frisk with the lads. He was a thunderous controversialist, and he talked to win; but nobody was less of a blinkered bigot than he. "A wise Tory and wise Whig, I believe, will agree. Their principles are the same, though their modes of thinking are different."

He was a self-made man, having survived hard struggles, and owing his fame and success entirely to his talents, and not at all to patrons, old boy networks, or snobbery, the *Pax Britannica*. He got on with all sorts and conditions of men, from the King to the simplest in the land, who were not so far apart from each other as George supposed; but his closest friends were women. He was marvellously eccentric, not least in appearance

and dress: the English have always liked a Falstaffian quality in their heroes. He was a majestic purist of language, but never a pedant. No, Boswell, the mountain is not immense, "but 'tis a considerable protuberance."

He was a very funny man. The deadliest insult to an Englishman or woman is to accuse him or her of having no sense of humour. Johnson was not only witty himself, sometimes apparently unintentionally (but don't you believe it); but he was also the cause of wit in other men.

Distance makes mountains out of mere protuberances. Two centuries make an immortal giant out of very human flesh and blood. Nevertheless, in remembering and honouring the death of a great Englishman, we would do well to revive some of the very English Johnsonian virtues that are a bit starved in our present national life. Where there is fanaticism, for Johnson's sake, let us have broadminded common sense. Where there are the caring industries, let us have compassion. When we are sure we are right, let us remember that even Whigs and Scots are human. Where we are bad-tempered and blinkered, let us remember Johnson, and not take ourselves seriously. When we are introspective and insular Little Englanders, let us copy Johnson's vision of all mortals from China to Peru, including slaves and West Indians, as equal children of God. Let us clear our minds of cant, and rant. Let us cultivate our sense of humour, and recognize that most of our sublimity schemes and preoccupations and bees in our bonnets are very laughable things.

## Visual safety on the motorway

From Mr Alan K. McCombie

Sir, Motorway collisions in fog always occur because a driver thinks he is going slowly enough when in fact he is not. No amount of prior exhortation or penal deterrence can prevent this simple misjudgement. What is required is a means of telling each driver, continuously, what his maximum speed should be. Some time ago, the following method occurred to me (it is obvious enough) and I am quite unable to see any fallacy in it.

It is that spaced reflectors be installed along the length of the carriageway, and the maximum legal speed at any point should then depend on the number of reflectors visible.

Such markers (small reflective tabs on posts) are already deployed along motorways, but their position, spacing, size and style make them unsuitable for this purpose. However, they nicely demonstrate the principle.

On a slightly misty night, six are visible. As the nearest one flashes by, a seventh appears in the distance. If they were suitably arranged and sequentially coloured, it could be stipulated that five in view meant 50 mph, four meant 40, and so on down.

The clarity of the indication, would in fact increase with the density of fog. So would the safety margin, since the braking distance of a vehicle varies with the square of its speed.

No other proposed system even approaches the potential efficiency of this. It has clarity and moral force: it is inexpensive, yet it cannot break down. Above all, it is continuous. Present-day warning systems lack credibility because both the fog detectors and the displays are necessarily at intermittent points.

Undoubtedly the markers would have to be of cunning design. There would be a question of re-calibration for kilometres and other problems. As an engineer, I assert that a good development team would dispose of such difficulties.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN MCCOMBIE,  
43 Hillside Park, N10,  
December 11.

## Merseyside to remain

From the Leader of Merseyside County Council

Sir, Your editorial (November 24) about the future of local government has some general merit but, when you deal with specifics, I am sorry, but you have got it wrong.

Merseyside is not divided, as you say, by a river. Well over 20 million tunnel journeys crossing it each year attest to that, let alone the 50,000 daily train journeys. Thousands of people living in Birkenhead and Wallasey are dependent for jobs and social facilities on what happens in Liverpool.

There is a job for a Merseyside countywide authority and indeed the Government's abolition case accepts both the continuation of the County of Merseyside and the effectiveness of many countywide services, including police, fire, public transport, museums and theatres. All the Government seeks to do is to abolish a directly elected authority and replace it with more central control.

Finally, perhaps you could persuade the Government or Parliament itself to grant a proper independent inquiry into the structure of local government in all the metropolitan counties, including Merseyside, so that the county council's records can be put to the test.

No doubt I and our third minister for Merseyside will agree to give evidence to the inquiry.

Yours faithfully,  
KEVA COOMBES, Leader,  
Merseyside County Council,  
PO Box 95,  
Metropolitan House,  
Old Hall Street,  
Liverpool,  
December 4.

## Letters to Russia

From Mr Patrick Lacey

Sir, Miss Judy Levy (December 5) may be too young, bless her, to remember a famous precedent for the Soviet C.P.'s GPU's Catch 22 rule that "should an item sent by registered post to the USSR fail to be delivered, it is incumbent upon the proposed recipient to write confirming the non-receipt of said item."

Seventy years ago millions of us sang, often and fortissimo: "Paddy wrote a letter to his Irish Molly-O  
Saying 'if you don't receive it, write and let me know'"

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK LACEY,  
Lime Villas,  
Cavendish,  
Suffolk.

## Limits of the law

From Dr Ralph Beddard

Sir, Your editorial comment on Friday, November 30, headed "Limits of the law", was inspired by the recent judgement of the International Court of Justice concerning its jurisdiction to hear the case brought by Nicaragua against the United States.

It could equally have been written about the use of national courts in the settlement of disputes between the Government and powerful groups in society, and particularly at the present time, the involvement of the courts in the miners' strike.

The International Court has always been faced with the problem of how far it should be used in disputes with high political content. In 1948 it said:

## No place to rent at Christmas time

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, This Christmas there will be tens of thousands of our fellow citizens without adequate accommodation. Undoubtedly a major reason for this is the large-scale reduction in public expenditure on housing, which has fallen by some 60 per cent since 1979-80. In my own borough, Walsall, for instance, no contracts have been entered into for new council housing since 1979.

In a brief, which a number of MPs have received from the Building Employers' Confederation, we were informed that they have estimated that, due to further cuts in 1984-85, housing starts in the public sector will be down a further 14 per cent (to 38,500). Improvement grants will be 17 per cent down on the previous year, and there will be a 6 per cent reduction in the renovation to the public-sector stock.

Much is made by ministers over the policy of selling council dwellings to sitting tenants, although, of course, no such right in law has been extended to private tenants.

As to be expected, very few flats indeed have been sold and, understandably, it has been the better housing stock which tenants have been more keen to buy, especially in view of the large discount involved. Therefore, for the first time, apart from the war years, there has been a substantial reduction in the rented sector and with no attempt by the Government to try to ensure that there are replacements for the dwellings sold.

All post-war governments, up until now, have accepted some responsibility to ensure that there is an adequate supply of rented accommodation. Today, however, so many families are, and will remain, inadequately housed or, worse, totally homeless, due to a policy decision made five years ago that housing should take the brunt of public-expenditure cuts.

Yours etc,  
DAVID WINNICK,  
House of Commons.

From Mr Nicholas Fenton and the Rev Gerald Reddington

Sir, The Government has recently published proposals to restrict the payment of supplementary benefit for board and lodging to people living outside their home area. This is a response to the widely publicised "scandal" of young people taking long seaside holidays at the expense of the taxpayer. We feel it is appropriate to present a somewhat different perspective.

The main provisions are to restrict payment of board and lodging allowances to between two and four weeks to people aged 18 and over, and to refuse to pay 16 and 17-year-olds in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS FENTON, Director,  
GERALD REDDINGTON,  
Chairman,  
Centrepole Soho,  
St Anne's House,  
57 Dean Street, W1,  
December 11.

## Sunday trading

From Lady Warner

Sir, I feel strongly that, in the debate about Sunday trading, the importance of peaceful Sundays in areas such as this one (so close to Kensington High Street) should not be overlooked. Here, it is not what is sold on Sundays that matters, but the sort of shop by which it is sold.

Free Sunday opening by the little shops that serve only the local residents would be most welcome. But Sunday opening of the big shops that attract customers from far and wide would be quite another thing.

We already have, for six days each week, the environment that results from their trading, with the attendant excitement of traffic wardens and traffic jams. Free Sunday opening of those shops would take away from us the one quiet day a week we have.

I do not see, however, how such a distinction between categories of

shops could be drawn, for the country as a whole, by an Act of Parliament. Some provincial towns now have big shopping complexes on their outskirts, the Sunday opening of which would harm nobody. Could not, therefore, the grant of permission to trade on Sunday be in the hands of the local authorities, as an extension perhaps of their powers under the Town and Country Planning Acts?

Yours faithfully,  
SYLVIA F. WARNER,  
32 Abington Villas, W8,  
December 9.

From Mrs Elizabeth E. Hill

Sir, Heal's, Debenhams and others complain most correctly about shoplifting. It is breaking the law. And so is Sunday trading.

Yours sincerely,  
ELIZABETH E. HILL,  
Willow Hill,  
Lymington, Hampshire.

The aim of this is clearly to encourage these young people to stay at home. Our experience is that most of these young people leave home because of intolerable pressures within the family and would become actually homeless if the proposals are implemented.

As a voluntary agency, working with over 2,000 young homeless people every year in central London, we are already conscious of the lack of acceptable accommodation for single people, particularly young single people who wish, as adults, to live independently.

We are quite clear that most of the people we see are not "drifters" or "scrungers". The people we see daily have no wish to live in shared accommodation in bed-and-breakfast hotels which are often exploitative, overcrowded and uninspected, preferring instead the basic independence of their own homes.

Among the other facilities provided by the voluntary sector are supportive hostels for those young people least able to cope with living independently. Presently, people stay for around six months and are often paying a charge based on DHSS board and lodging limits. As the new proposals do not specifically exclude hostels, we must assume they are included.

The practical effect of this may well be to close these hostels, often built with capital finance through the Department of the Environment with the participation of the Home Office, London Boroughs Association and the private sector.

The proposals are based on the assumption that people who have moved in order to seek employment should be able to find work in two to four weeks. In the present youth employment market, we believe this assumption is hopelessly unrealistic.

Even in those circumstances where people will be entitled to board and lodging payments, the suggested levels for central London mean that the kind of accommodation available will at best be squalid and overcrowded, and at worst non-existent.

While we accept that there has been some exploitation of the present regulations, we believe that the sledgehammer approach suggested will do great damage.

In our view, the primary reason for the increase in payments for board and lodging is the increase in homelessness. The Government could attack this by a programme of investment in housing, and a system of licensing and inspecting bed and breakfast hotels. It chose instead to attack a particularly vulnerable group, to make them even more vulnerable, and to undermine the funding arrangements of those voluntary agencies already swimming against the financial tide. If the proposals are carried through, it could mean that literally thousands of young people will be sleeping on the streets.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS FENTON, Director,  
GERALD REDDINGTON,  
Chairman,  
Centrepole Soho,  
St Anne's House,  
57 Dean Street, W1,  
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## Muffling a voice in Europe

From Mr Christopher Tugendhat

Sir, The Representation of the People Bill, now before Parliament, proposes to grant the right to vote in parliamentary and European elections to non-residents whose names appeared on an electoral roll within seven years of the date of an election.

The Home Secretary has acknowledged that the seven-year limit is arbitrary and is justified only by the assumption that absence is bound to make links with home grow weaker.

The Bill, if passed, would condemn to non-representation expatriates who have been abroad for more than seven years and who have had no opportunity to renew their electoral registration.

This disqualification will apply in particular to all but a few of the Britons who are members of staff members of European Community institutions outside Britain. Not being Crown servants they do not qualify for the service vote available to members of the diplomatic and Armed Services.

The Home Office argues that it would be discriminatory to enfranchise European Community staff; but not expatriates who work abroad in the private sector; and indefensible to give voting rights to Britons who live in European Community member states only.

On the first point, the British Government has already recognised the distinctive status of Britons who work for Community institutions in the British Nationality Act of 1941. On the second point, the distinction between the treatment of members of the European Community and non-members seems to have no basis in community membership.

We hope that Parliament will accept that Britons working in European Community institutions and their spouses should have the right to vote in Britain without limit of time.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER TUGENDHAT  
(Vice-President, Commission of the European Communities, Brussels),  
IVOR RICHARD (member of the Commission),  
C. J. CAREY (member, Court of Auditors, European Communities, Luxembourg),  
MICHAEL PALMER,  
(Deputy Director General, Secretariat General of the European Parliament, Luxembourg),  
C. R. ROSS (Vice-President, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg),  
Y. NICOLLE (Director General, Secretariat General of the Council, Brussels),  
Avenue Roger Vandendriessche 81,  
1150 Brussels,  
December 5.

From Mr C. N. Beattie, QC

Sir, Mr Nigel Forman, MP, states in his letter to you (December 10) that no one has yet explained convincingly how higher tax thresholds will enable more of the employed to find work. The absence of explanation is due to the fact that most members of Parliament are too out of touch with real life to know the answer, and those few who do know lack the courage to say so in public.

The explanation is that a not inconsiderable number of the unemployed do not wish to take up available jobs, because they would rather be paid for doing nothing than work for not much extra money. Widening the gap between unemployment pay and pay for a job will induce some of such people to begin working again.

Yours faithfully,  
C. N. BEATTIE,  
24 Old Buildings,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,  
December 10.

## Greece and EEC

From Mr Y. Hitos

Sir, As the first to introduce the element of blackmail in inter-European Community financial arguments (see her threat to let the EEC go broke by withholding Britain's total contribution to the EEC budget if the Community did not agree to a significant reduction of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget), Mrs Thatcher has neither the right nor the authority, nor the power for that matter, to attack Mr Papandreu's use of similar tactics in pursuit of his own financial demands from the EEC.

The best she could do on this occasion, so soon after she brought the European Community to the brink of financial collapse, is to remain silent and let other more credible voices in the Community make whatever criticism is to be made of Mr Papandreu's behaviour.

Yours sincerely,  
Y. HITOS,  
22 Lysia Street, SW6,  
December 6.

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Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PENMAN,  
Forest View,  
Upper Chute,  
Andover,  
Hampshire,  
December 5.

From Dr John Penman

Sir, When Mr Ewart (December 5) calls for electronic cricket bats (tongue in cheek, I hope), he raises the question of what this erstwhile game has become. For some time it has been a religion and an industry, and now it is to be a subject for technological experiment.

May I suggest a small radar set on the batsman's head, to inform him, through auditory signals, on what axis the ball is spinning, in which direction and how fast? Powered roller-skates for the fielders are long overdue.







## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# BP sets a trend for in-house banking

British Petroleum is as aware as any oil major that it is as important to manage cash with at least the skill and application it brings to oil. The company has an active foreign exchange department, handling the massive dollar transactions, it has now incorporated this in a banking unit BP Finance International.

BPFI does not take deposits from third parties and this will not need Bank of England approval. It will handle functions usually undertaken by financial advisers, who will still be engaged, more selectively, when BP is required to have independent advice. It will be the job of an estimated 80 staff based in London and under the aegis of group treasurer, Mr John Brown, to offer a range of specialized banking services to BP's 11 businesses and associated companies in Britain and overseas.

Money volumes for BP run at about £250 million a day and although figures are difficult to come by, the business of managing money could run at £3 billion a year. As a full service bank BPFI will have specialized commercial and merchant banking departments, handling project finance, new business proposals, mergers, acquisitions and disposals. It will devise and oversee financial policies and strategies for the group, and manage BP's relationships with the financial community and its shareholders.

This formal move into banking is an imaginative acknowledgement that a company's cash, particularly when it is as large as BP's, can become a profit-centre in its own right. It is also in tune with the mood of change in the City and the elevation of "financial services" into a high profile, growth industry.

The fascinating question is the size and direction of BP's external banking ambitions.

## Leadership needed at Charter

Rarely are stiff upper lips maintained with such aplomb as they were yesterday by senior executives of Charter Consolidated as they unveiled the financial horrors caused by events of recent months. The six months to September 30 were an unmitigated disaster. As Oscar Wilde might have said: to write off substantial amounts on one investment is unfortunate, to write off substantial amounts on two is sheer carelessness.

The figures speak for themselves. A £46.4 million loss on the disposal of Johnson Matthey Bankers and costs of £18.2 million relating to the rationalization of Cape Industries have left an ugly scar on the profit and loss account below the line.

Above the line the picture is equally depressing. Interim pretax profits of £7.7 million were not as bad as some had expected but they are well down on the £22 million reported a year ago. Losses at Cape and Johnson Matthey's decision not to pay a dividend contributed to the poor trading performance, but there is little comfort in Charter's interests which remained plague proof. Even the normally reliable investment portfolio failed to live up to expectations. The surplus on realizations was a meagre £401,000 which is attributable more to poor investment management than market conditions.

The Charter management may put on a brave face and say that it is over the worst but the aftermath of the Cape and JMB

disasters will see a further drain on cash flow as the two companies are put back on their feet.

Charter's balance sheet is strong enough to withstand pressures and its gearing of 27 per cent poses no real threat. Therein lies Charter's problem. Sitting on a strong asset backing, it was just too comfortable. The board's inability to create any kind of coherent identity or to evolve a coherent has finally come home to roost. The group cries out for a powerful and dedicated management.

## Problems of index linked gilts

Some three and a half years ago, the Bank of England issued its first index-linked gilt, partly in a bid to cut the excessive cost of public sector funding. A 2 per cent coupon on the stock, Treasury Index-Linked 1996, clearly made sense in the context of comparable yields in the 13½ per cent region. Investors, prudently at first, bought the stock, and subsequently bought others despite misgivings about the open-ended nature of the repayment liability.

Go the initial questions remain unanswered, mainly because inflation has fallen sharply. Nevertheless, the introduction of index-linked gilts may prove to have been the most ill-judged move made by the authorities.

For essential virtue of index-linked gilts is that they enable investors, for the first time, to price the market more accurately. Traders now have too much knowledge for the Bank of England's comfort about its funding operations.

Mr Stephen Lewis, gilt-edged seen at Phillips and Drew, tackled these questions at the stockbroker's investment seminar yesterday. According to the Lewis model of the gilt-edged market, yields can be broken down into three components: real yield, an inflation adjustment element, and a risk premium which remains fairly constant.

Such a forensic approach, of course, is not new. What is novel is the way that an index-linked proxy for any particular stock now enables investors to work out the market's real yield requirements and its inflation expectations.

According to Mr Lewis, the differential between fixed-coupon and index-linked yields leads investors towards the other components of fixed-coupon yields. This differential has tracked the decline in the inflation rate fairly closely in the past two years. But the market may be fast approaching a sea-change.

Inflation may be set to start rising, while the outlook for real yields, currently about 3½ per cent, is more problematical, mainly because the sluggish British economy cannot justify such a high figure. If so real yields would fall and index-linked stocks would rise in price.

By the same token, conventional gilts should perform relatively poorly, since a rise in inflation expectations must be followed by an increase in conventional yields. On this basis, the argument in favour of a switch from conventional stocks into index-linked is strong.

Such an analysis would have been impossible before index-linked stock were introduced. Equally, gilts would, perhaps, not have hesitated, as much as they have done in the current cycle at the 10 per cent yield barrier.

# Maxwell concedes defeat in £44m bid for Waddington

By Philip Robinson and William Kay

John Waddington last night was assured of victory in fighting off a £44 million takeover bid from Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation. It is the second time Waddington has defeated Mr Maxwell's bids in as many years.

Mr Maxwell conceded defeat just before 4.30 yesterday afternoon, even though his bid does not technically expire until 3pm today.

The deciding factor was a placing by Bzenove, the stockbroker, of 4.6 per cent stake in Waddington's funds. This was a variety of institutions thought to support the Waddington board.

However, the sale price of 507.5p per share was just above the 500p cash being offered by BPCC. When the shares came on offer last Tuesday night, the asking price was thought to be 520p.

A spokesman for Warburg Investment Management said: "The first thing we must say is that we normally support the management and we have done this and accepted what is a very attractive price for us."

Last night Waddington's shares dropped 18p to 502p.

Mr Maxwell said: "I conceded so that everyone would now where they stand and in the interests of an orderly market. This was not a ploy by me, but we could still win if the share price falls below 500p. It is still open to the institutions to change their mind."

However, in a formal statement earlier, BPCC said that after the sale by an uncommitted institution of 1.2 million shares, (14.6 per cent) this added to the 45 per cent already announced as being committed to Waddington make it impossible for BPCC's bid to succeed.

Mr Victor Watson, Waddington chairman, said: "I am



Victor Watson: 'confident but not complacent'

confident but not complacent. I am very pleased at being able to fight off Mr Maxwell for a second time."

BPCC says it is considering its position. Britain's largest printing company still holds a 23 per cent stake in Waddington.

Mr Watson added: "I hope he will sell his shares and go away. I do not want him as a shareholder but I cannot predict what will happen. Mr Maxwell is unpredictable."

Waddington and Kleinwort Benson, its merchant bank advisor, have already challenged the ultimate ownership of the BPCC stake which rests with a Liechtenstein-registered company, Pergamon Holding Foundation.

Under British law a company is entitled to know the ultimate beneficial ownership of its shares. Refusal to reveal this will run the risk of shares being disenfranchised by the High Court and dividend payments on those shares suspended.

So far, Mr Maxwell has said that the ownership of the foundation is a private matter. But he is expected to announce next week that ultimate control lies with the French family interests of his wife, and thereby avoid any High Court action.

## 12.6% stake in Vosper for NRDC

The National Research Development Corporation, an offshoot of the government's industrial holding company British Technology Group, is taking a 12.6 per cent stake in the enlarged equity of Vosper, the shipbuilding and repairing company.

The £1.5m proceeds of the placing of 816,000 shares at 183.3p will go to Vosper Hovermarine to enable it to pay £1.5 million to NRDC and to Hovercraft Development, a subsidiary of NRDC. Hovermarine owes NRDC and HD a total of £2.2 million.

Vosper says it will show a loss of £1 million for the year to October 31, 1984 against a profit of £1.2 million in 1983/84. While trading remains difficult, the company says, the number of order inquiries with real potential has improved substantially in the last six months.

## EEC mortgages proposal

EEC citizens should be allowed to use any building society or credit system in the community when they want to obtain a mortgage, the European Commission has decided.

It put forward proposals yesterday aimed at helping people to move from one home to another when buying a new home. It wants to see the scheme adopted by 1987.

The idea is that each country should recognize the existing systems in other countries.

## Profits dip

Northern Foods has reported a slight dip in pretax profits which fell from £27.9 million to £27 million, the first decline for 10 years. Turnover also fell from £656.9 million to £612.7 million in the six months to September 30. An unchanged interim dividend of 4.25p is proposed.

Tempus, page 19

## Tate gains

Tate & Lyle, raised pretax profits for the year ending September 29 by 21 per cent to £69.2 million. The sugar company also announced that it will pay £43.2 million (£36 million) for the Agri-Products Division of Beatrice Inc. The final dividend is 12.5p net.

Tempus, page 19

## Flat cider

The cider business has gone somewhat flat for the Herefordshire producers. H. P. Bulmer, best known for the Strongbow and Woodpecker brands. Pretax profits for the half year to October fell by 22 per cent to £7.2 million. The interim dividend is being maintained at 2.24p. But the shares were down 10p at 154p. The Chancellor gets the blame for raising the excise duty on cider by 47 per cent in the last Budget.

## Plants to close

Grove, Cranes, which exports cranes throughout the world, is to close two plants in Oxfordshire, with the loss of 400 jobs. The company says the plants in Oxford and Bicester will close by spring because of the recession in the mobile crane market.

## BAe cleared on Airbus cover

By John Lawless

British Aerospace has failed to win government backing for the sale of 40 Tornado fighter aircraft to Britain's Nato ally, Turkey - but is, after all, to be given the insurance cover it needs to sell seven European Airbus aircraft.

This was disclosed yesterday when Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, was being questioned by the Commons Trade and Industry Committee about the operations of the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The committee had heard a complaint from Sir Raymond Lygo, managing director of British Aerospace, last week. He said that the sale of both aircraft was apparently being blocked by Treasury concern over Turkish creditworthiness, while the Department of Trade and Industry appeared ready to take a "more realistic" view.

The committee's chairman, Mr Kenneth Warren - MP for

Hastings and Rye, and an aeronautical engineer - said yesterday that he had been writing to Mrs Thatcher for two months about the Tornado deal.

It was worth \$1 billion (£833 million) in total, with British Aerospace having a 42.5 per cent share, in partnership with West German and Italian manufacturers.



Paul Channon: questioned by MPs

He said that the Prime Minister had now replied, saying that Turkey was "not a viable market" for the Tornado at the moment.

It was not clear whether a reply direct from Mrs Thatcher is confirmation of the Cabinet row over the deal which the aerospace industry believes has taken place over the deal. Specifically at issue is whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department (which reports to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry) should be allowed to insure the deal for which the Treasury has a statutory responsibility to give its consent.

Mr Channon refused to be drawn on newspaper reports about the row, but said that Turkey had rescheduled debts worth £120 million, which will not now be paid until 1992.

The Government has now increased the Airbus insurance cover to 85 per cent.

## Small firms draw £80m investment

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Investment in small businesses through the Business Expansion Scheme (BES) with its tax-relief incentives to individual investors amounted to about £80 million during 1983-84. Two-thirds of those benefiting were young start-up companies.

This emerged yesterday from a new Treasury analysis of BES progress. It means more investment has gone into small businesses in this route than was suggested last month by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor.

A total of £73 million was invested in 312 companies during this year, reflecting investments known so far, through approved investment funds. But at least a further 100 companies are now believed to have raised money directly from investors. These additional investments may have amounted to a further £5 million, according to the Treasury's latest *Economic Progress Report*.

Since the average level at which tax relief is given is running at about 50 per cent, the cost to the Inland Revenue in the year is likely to be about £40 million.

Two-thirds of companies involved in BES were start-up businesses less than five years old, the survey shows. They accounted for well over half of the total investments.

More than 40 per cent of all investments went to particularly young companies less than a year old.

The survey underlines the trend for investment through funds towards the upper end of the scale. The median amount for fund investment per company was £160,000 but for direct investment it was £40,000. Three-quarters of companies finding direct investments raised less than £100,000.

*Economic Progress Report* 173 November/December: EPR (Distribution), Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

## Liffe to launch trading in four new contracts

By Michael Prest

The London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday ended several months of City speculation about which direction it would take by giving details of a new futures contract and three options contracts.

A short-gilts futures contract will be introduced next year to complement the exchange's successful long-gilts futures contract.

At the same time Liffe is laying plans for sterling/dollar option on a physical currency and for options on the Liffe Eurodollar futures contract and on the Liffe long-gilts futures.

Mr Michael Jenkins, Liffe's chief executive, said that firm dates for introducing the contracts will be announced in January. June is a likely starting point and they could begin trading in fairly rapid succession.

The main organizational problem is accommodating options trading. A new clearing system will have to be agreed with the International Commodities Clearing House and new price displays and a new trading area will be necessary.

A survey of Liffe members, Mr Jenkins said, had shown 90 per cent in favour of launching options. The provision for physical delivery in the sterling/dollar option, as opposed to basing the contract on Liffe's existing futures contract, reflected members' wishes, he said.

It is expected by Liffe that the short-gilts, which will be a notional five years, although delivery could be of a gift of between three and seven years, will be used by the new Stock Exchange primary dealers.

## Pilkington seeks £105m

By Cliff Feltham

Pilkington Brothers, the glassmaker, is asking its shareholders for £104.8 million to help cut its borrowings and pay for new ventures, most likely in the United States.

Pilkington is offering one new share for every four already held at 255p. The shares, which have touched 351p this year on takeover talk, fell 7p to 298p.

At the same time Pilkington announced a sharp rise in its pretax profits for the six months to September, up from £30.4 million to £52.2 million.

But the group, based in St Helens, is still paying heavily for restructuring and redundancy costs, involving the loss of 500 jobs. Pilkington says a similar number of jobs are likely to disappear during the second half.

Tempus, page 19

## Greycoat may bid for Churchbury

Greycoat City Offices today looks set to make a bid for Churchbury Estates, the property company set up by Mr Oliver Marjot. The shares in both companies were temporarily suspended at their request yesterday with both sides in meetings.

The market has long been expecting a takeover bid for Churchbury a situation, which Mr Marjot admitted was likely. Churchbury has rationalized the portfolio it acquired with its reverse takeover of Law Land in 1981 but it lacks the experience to undertake more development. It is something which Greycoat can do very well.

A takeover would allow the new company to expand its equity and profit base. Greycoat's interim figures are due today and brokers predict a doubling of pretax profits to £1.45 million with a gross dividend of 1p.

Commercial property, page 21

£800,000. The developer plans to build three high-technology buildings of 7,500 sq ft each, with the first floor finished to office standards. The joint agents, Richard Ellis and Coward Ripley, are hoping for rents of £8.50 a sq ft to be achieved once work is complete next August.

● Brixton Estate, which celebrated its diamond anniversary this week, has completed the first large redevelopment of its Acton Park Industrial Estate in west London, since it was bought by the company in 1963. Brixton has built 50,258 sq ft of industrial and warehouse property and has one unit already under offer. Brixton was able to redevelop the site by getting Lucas CAV, which still occupies a large amount of space on the estate, to surrender one of its leases. Rents for the new space through St Quintin, are from £3.78 a sq ft to £4.50 a sq ft.

● The Intercontinental Hotels Corporation and Grand Metropolitan have sold the Hotel Lotti in the Rue de Castiglione, Paris for more than £6 million. Jones Lang Wootton acting for the vendor, says that there is a strong demand for luxury hotels in Paris, as in London. The Lotti has been bought by Jolly Hotels, the Italian chain which intends refurbishing the hotel. Mr Robert Waterland, a partner in Jones Lang Wootton's Paris office, says that the boom in the hotel market reflects the competitive rate of the franc against other currencies, particularly the dollar. But, he adds, few of the international hotel operators are able to find the cash to invest in buying more hotels as capital is difficult to find.

investment in the heart of Hamburg for close to DM 18 million (£4.83 million). Sun Alliance bought the property, at Neuer Wall 2-6 Jungfernstieg in the face of strong competition from German institutions. Retail tenants include Gold-Pfied, whose lease expires at the end of the year, when Sun Alliance expects to see a significant reversion on the rent. Weatherall Green & Smith's Frankfurt office acted for Sun Alliance.

● FIRST UNION GENERAL INVESTMENT TRUST: Results for the year to December 31 show net income after tax of £17.7 million or £7.9 pence (R17.25 million). Earnings per share were 23.75 cents (21.15 cents) and net asset value per share was 473 cents (458 cents). A dividend of 12 cents (10 cents) making 19 cents (16.5 cents) is being paid on January 18.

## MARKET SUMMARY

### STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	922.3 (-7.3)
FT-A All Share	572.59 (-2.37)
FT Govt Securities	82.91 (-0.24)
FT-SE 100	1190.7 (-7.9)
Bargains	32,528
Dataseam USM	106.4 (-0.55)
Dow Jones	1177.78 (-0.57)
Nikkei Dow	11,382.34 (+131.51)
Hong Kong	1117.23 (-1.15)
Hong Kong	1117.23 (-1.15)
Amsterdam	178.4 (-0.1)
Sidney AQ	721.3 (-2.5)
Frankfurt	1087.1 (-0.9)
Brussels	158.31 (-0.11)
Paris: CAC	180.8 (-0.1)
Zurich	319.30 (-1.1)

### GOLD

London fixing	am \$327.50 pm \$324.50
close	\$324.50-\$325 (€270.25)
New York	\$324.50
Comex	\$326.10

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Centraway Trust	135 +35
Milford Docks	49 +9
Ass Brit Eng	10½ +1½
Dunston Grp	22½ +2½
Hallwood Grp	104 +11
Coates Bros	140 +18
Blue Arrow	107 +10
Brengron	57 +4½
MTD (Mangula)	12 +1
Applied Bot	6 +½
Tunstall Tel	330 +25

### FALLS:

Chynne Res	10 -2
Lifecare n/p	7 -1
Sumire	73 -10
Invision	27 -3
Raybeck	107 -10
Selectiv	10 -1
Wit Nige	130 -13
Gerber En	55 -5
Eagle Corp	6 -½
Ass Hotel	3 -½
Nth Brit Steel	27 -2
Notch Brick n/p	26 -2
Energy Res	359 -25

### CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.1995 (unchanged)	
DM: 3.7015 (-0.0015)	
Sfr: 3.0630 (+0.0040)	
FF: 11.3505 (+0.0073)	
Yen: 285.50 (+0.30)	
Index: 74.5 (-0.2)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.1990	
DM: 3.0857	
Index: 142.8 (+0.3)	

### INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Rate: 8½-9½%	
3-month interbank: 9½-10%	
3-month eligible bills: buying rate 9½-10%	
US:	
Prime Rate: 11.25-11.50%	
Federal Funds: 8½%	
3-month Treasury Bills: 8.20-8.10%	
Long bond: 10½%-10½%	

Preliminary announcement of results for the period ended 29th September 1984.

# Six years of profit growth

THE YEAR IN BRIEF

	1984	1983
Turnover	£1,722m	£1,784m
Profit before tax	£69.2m	£57.3m
Profit after tax attributable to shareholders	£37.5m	£33.6m
Earnings per share	54.3p	59.5p
Dividends per share	19.0p	16.0p
Dividend cover	2.9 times	3.7 times

THE CHAIRMAN, ROBERT HASLAM, REPORTS:

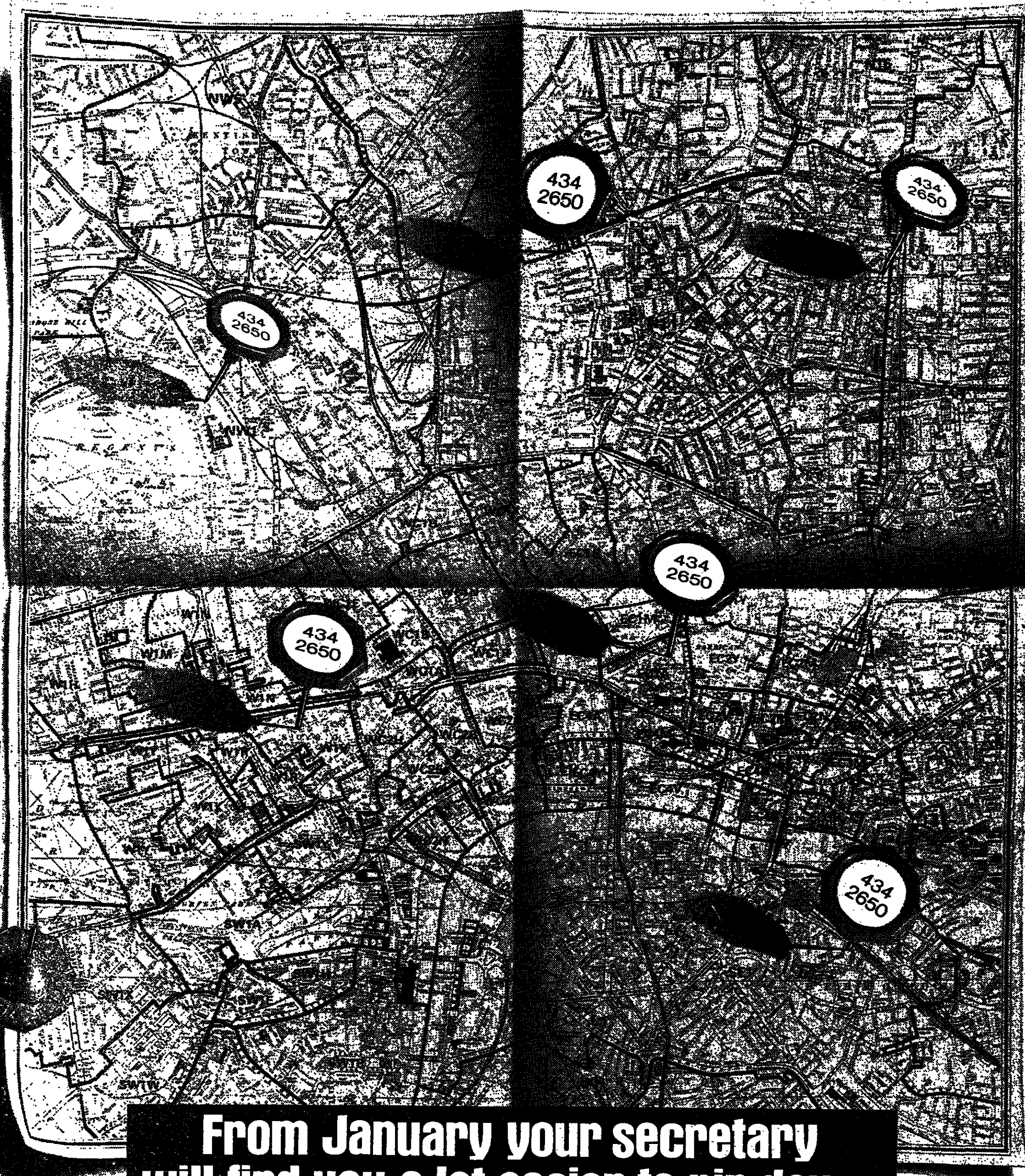
- For the sixth successive year, pretax profits have increased. The Group pretax profits are a record £69.2 million—a rise of 21% over the previous year.
- For the fourth successive year, the Group announces a dividend increase. The final dividend is 12.5p per share making a total for the year of 19.0p—a rise of 19%.
- The dividend is covered 2.9 times by earnings and allows healthy dividend growth to be maintained in the future.
- The Group's strong cash flow further strengthens the financial position.
- Profit per employee has again increased—to £6,000 from £4,900—showing effective use of resources by our people.

Copies of the Annual Report for the period ended 29th September 1984 will be mailed to shareholders shortly and will be available from:

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London EC3R 6DQ.

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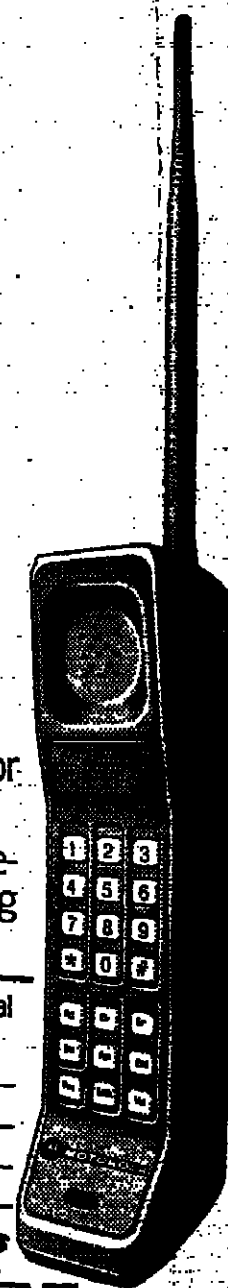
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

# Time for investors to diversify

By Judith Huntley

## Rising yields do not bode well for portfolios heavily weighted in the industrial sector

Institutional money is leaving property and yields are rising. At last a streak of sanity is returning to the property world as fund managers see other forms of investment showing better returns.

For the first time in recent history average yields on industrial property have reached the same level as the return on gilts. This trend, which looks set to continue for some time, has far reaching implications, particularly for those property companies with portfolios heavily weighted in the industrial sector.

The office sector too, with a few exceptions in the City of London, has not been turning in such a good performance. Average yields are at their highest for seven years with the South-east, the Midlands and the North of England showing the sharpest rises. Even in the hotspot of the market - the retail property - average yields have remained flat, falling only in a few isolated cases.

It is not just average yields that are going up. Prime yields, also rising as the lack of rental growth over the last few years is reflected in the market place. The weight of institutional investment in property has been keeping the market from sinking. Some would argue that institutions have pushed yields to the point where they were too low to be

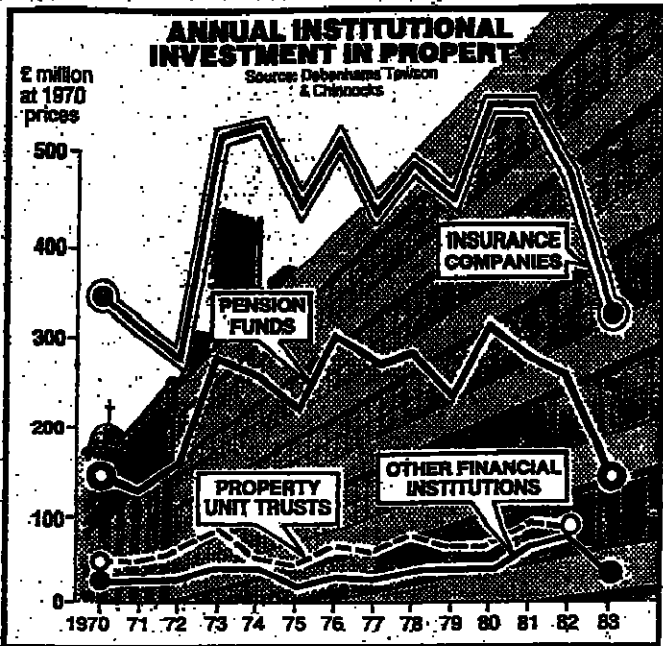
justifiable on rental growth performance.

The Hillier Parker and Investors' Chronicle research for November shows that the average yield for all property rose to 7 per cent - an increase of 0.25 per cent on the August level. Offices and industrial property accounted for this situation, while shops merely remained unchanged. Prime yields also went up to 5.1 per cent, from 4.8 per cent six months ago.

Capital values fell for all property by 2.8 per cent over the period. Industrial property saw capital values plummet by 8 per cent, with the retail sector holding up best on a rise of 5.2 per cent.

Hillier Parker says that investors are still concentrating on the retail sector - a trend confirmed by Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks' latest report on institutional investment. But the rise in average yields highlights the fact that investors are still, quite rightly, doubtful about property's performance. One reason put forward by Hillier Parker is the rapid growth in equity dividends which are forecast to outstrip rental growth for some time to come.

Debenham Tewson argues that we are now entering a new phase, with the emphasis switching to rationalizing institutional portfolios, a phrase which has become only too familiar as property sales by pension funds and insurance companies come to light. During 1983, net investment in commercial property fell by 25 per cent to £1.5 billion.



On the other hand, sales have become an important source of funds to institutions, rising from 17 per cent in 1981 to 60 per cent last year, relative to new investment. Cash-flow to the institutions, last year rose by 7 per cent, but investment patterns showed a shift to Government securities and liquid assets.

With rents static, yields rising and institutional money going into alternative forms of investment, it does not bode well for the asset value of property companies whose portfolios are weighted towards the industrial or the office sector outside the City and parts of London. Unless these companies shift their portfolio weighting, or venture into other kinds of development, they may find there is a downward valuation in the portfolio - or that existing valuations are far too high.

The letting market shows no sign of any real improvement, other than for a few kinds of high-quality property. Office and industrial hybrids in certain parts of the South-east are in demand and companies with these in their portfolios will see some rental growth, but elsewhere the lack of demand is revealing only too well how marginal property can become.

The level of inflation can no longer hide deficiencies in property and the impact of depreciation and obsolescence are painfully clear. The message to investors must be to diversify a portfolio weighted too heavily in one direction and to come to grips with managing assets before they become liabilities.

## Ludgate Hill bomb site plans in ruins

It is back to square one in the Square Mile. The City's politicians have overthrown the advice of their planners and architects on the brief for one of the last remaining City bomb sites still undeveloped. The site, at Ludgate Hill, has attracted much interest from developers. But they have had to wait until the City Corporation decided what kind of development it

would allow. The whole of the site can be developed for offices and the recommendation that the scale of new buildings be kept to that of the existing ones, has been overruled. The corporation wants to see high-quality offices at Ludgate Hill and is removing some of the restrictions it feels will deter developers from coming up with the right kind of scheme.

The Arab Banking Corporation is talking to Commercial Union Assurance about buying No 1 Moorgate in the City, but neither side would confirm that a deal has been struck. The office building has belonged to Commercial Union for some time and was formerly occupied by it. New office space is being provided behind the facade of the existing building.

Six firms of chartered surveyors have banded together to sponsor a new property investment data bank. Chestertons, Cluttons, Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, Drivers Jonas, Savills and Weatherall Green & Smith have commissioned the consultants Roger Tye & Partners to process information from institutional portfolios.

## Court of Appeal Law Report December 13 1984 Court of Appeal

### When leave is necessary for appeal from official referee

Giles Electrical Engineers Ltd v Plessey Communications Systems Ltd

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd

[Judgment delivered December 5]

The circumstances in which leave was required to appeal from a decision of an official referee was governed by the same principles which applied to appeals from a High Court judge.

The Court of Appeal so stated in refusing the defendant leave to appeal from an interlocutory decision of Judge Hawker, QC, sitting as official referee.

Mr Teatani, Philipson for the defendant, Mr Richard Fernyhoough for the plaintiff.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that a problem had arisen concerning appeals from an interlocutory decision of an official referee. Clearly any right of appeal from an official referee was limited

by Order 58, rule 4 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The problem arose because of the decision in *Technistudy Ltd v Kelland* [1976] 1 WLR 1042 where it was held that leave to appeal from an official referee was not required on a point of law even if the order sought to be appealed from was interlocutory in nature.

When *Technistudy* was decided section 31 of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act 1925 was in force and section 31(1)(i) of that Act provided that no appeal should lie without the leave of the judge or the Court of Appeal from any interlocutory order. The reason for the decision in the *Technistudy* case was that an official referee was not a "judge" within the meaning of section 31(1)(i).

In 1977 the Rules of the Supreme Court were amended (SI 1977 No 332) and section 31 of the 1925 Act applied as if an official referee was a judge of the High Court. The effect of the amendment meant that

*Technistudy* was no longer applicable.

Any doubt about that was dispelled by section 18(1)(b) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 (which replaced section 31 of the 1925 Act) which did not confine the subject matter of that subsection to a judge but extended it to a "court or tribunal". Whatever was said about an official referee he clearly came within the meaning of a "court or tribunal".

Leave to appeal was required in exactly the same circumstances as that which applied to a judge of the High Court. The present case was clearly an interlocutory matter and it was conceded that leave to appeal was required.

If leave to appeal would not be required from a High Court judge, it would not be required from an official referee.

Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Herbert Oppenheimer, Nathan & Vandyk, Messrs.

### Fiat is not required for a charge

Regina v Elliott  
Before Lord Justice Stephen Brown, Mr Justice Hodgson and Mr Justice Glidwell

[Judgment delivered December 4]

Section 63 (1) of the Administration of Justice Act 1982, which provided that "Proceedings for a crime under the [Explosive Substances Act 1883] shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Attorney General", should be interpreted as meaning that such proceedings were instituted when a person came to court to answer the charge. Accordingly, when a person was charged with offences under the 1883 Act in April 1983, but the Attorney General's fiat was not given until June, the proceedings were not thereby rendered null and void.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of Trevor Elliott against his conviction on November 23, 1983 at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Beaumont) of offences contrary to sections 2 and 3 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883. He pleaded guilty to one count of making explosives, and was sentenced to a total of three years' youth custody.

Mr John T. Milford assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr R. P. Lowden for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that it was submitted for the appellant on the authority of *R v Brentnall* [1979] RTR 155, that the commencement or institution of proceedings occurred when a person was charged, and that since the appellant had been charged before the Attorney General gave his consent, thereafter all the proceedings must have been a nullity.

A very different set of circumstances was under consideration in that case and that was a decision of the Divisional Court not the Court of Appeal.

In the present situation it was important also to have regard to the provisions of section 62 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1979 which, counsel for the Crown submitted, plainly envisaged that the absence of the consent of the Attorney General should not prevent an arrest or charge.

There was no direct authority upon the matter, and their Lordships concluded that section 63 of the Administration of Justice Act 1982 should be interpreted as meaning that proceedings were instituted at the time when a person attended the court to answer the charge. To hold otherwise would be to ignore the provisions of section 6 of the 1979 Act.

Solicitors: Director of Public Prosecutions.

### Amateurs in science on the bench

Dawson v Lunn

Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough

[Judgment delivered November 30]

Where it was necessary for a court to determine whether alcohol consumed after ceasing to drive or be in charge of a vehicle had caused the amount of alcohol in the motorist's body to exceed the prescribed limit it would always be necessary for the motorist to call expert medical or scientific evidence in order to discharge the burden of proof which lay on him, unless the non-expert evidence called was such as to enable the court reliably and confidently to reach a sensible conclusion without expert evidence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated allowing an appeal by the prosecutor, Mr Herbert Dawson, from a decision of Colchester Justices to dismiss an information laid against Mr Derek Lunn, alleging that he had driven with excess alcohol in his body, on the basis that the defendant had satisfied them that alcohol taken after he had ceased to drive had taken him over the limit.

Mr Andrew Collins for the prosecutor, Mr John Boothby for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF said that the justices had reached their decision after considering and drawing conclusions from an extract from the *British Medical Journal* which had been handed to them by the defendant, the prosecutor not having objected, without any expert witnesses being called.

The case vividly illustrated the danger of justices, or judges for that matter, dabbling as amateurs in science without the assistance of qualified witnesses.

While there were no doubt some cases where the weight of the non-expert evidence called by the defendant was such that justices could conclude, confidently and reliably that he had discharged the burden of proof, there were many cases where they could not sensibly

draw that conclusion themselves.

The dictum of Lord Widgery in *Pugsley v Hunter* [1973] RTR 284, 290, which concerned the "laced drinker" defence was equally applicable to such a case as this where the facts were not obvious from the non-expert evidence.

Mr Justice McCullough agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co for Mr J. J. Goodwin, Chelmsford; Aughterson, Keeble & Passmore, Colchester.

### Maximum term is limit

Regina v Michel

Where a fine with a substantial term of imprisonment in default was imposed, in the absence of proof of means to pay, on a defendant who had also been given the maximum sentence of imprisonment for the offence, the fine was quashed, as the effect of the term of imprisonment in default would be to carry the total period of imprisonment well above the permissible maximum.

While there was, in principle, nothing wrong in fining a defendant at the same time as making a criminal bankruptcy order, there would be relatively few cases in which it would be right to do so. The criminal bankruptcy order gave the victim of a fraud a potential remedy, and might, in fact, deprive the defendant of the means to pay a fine.

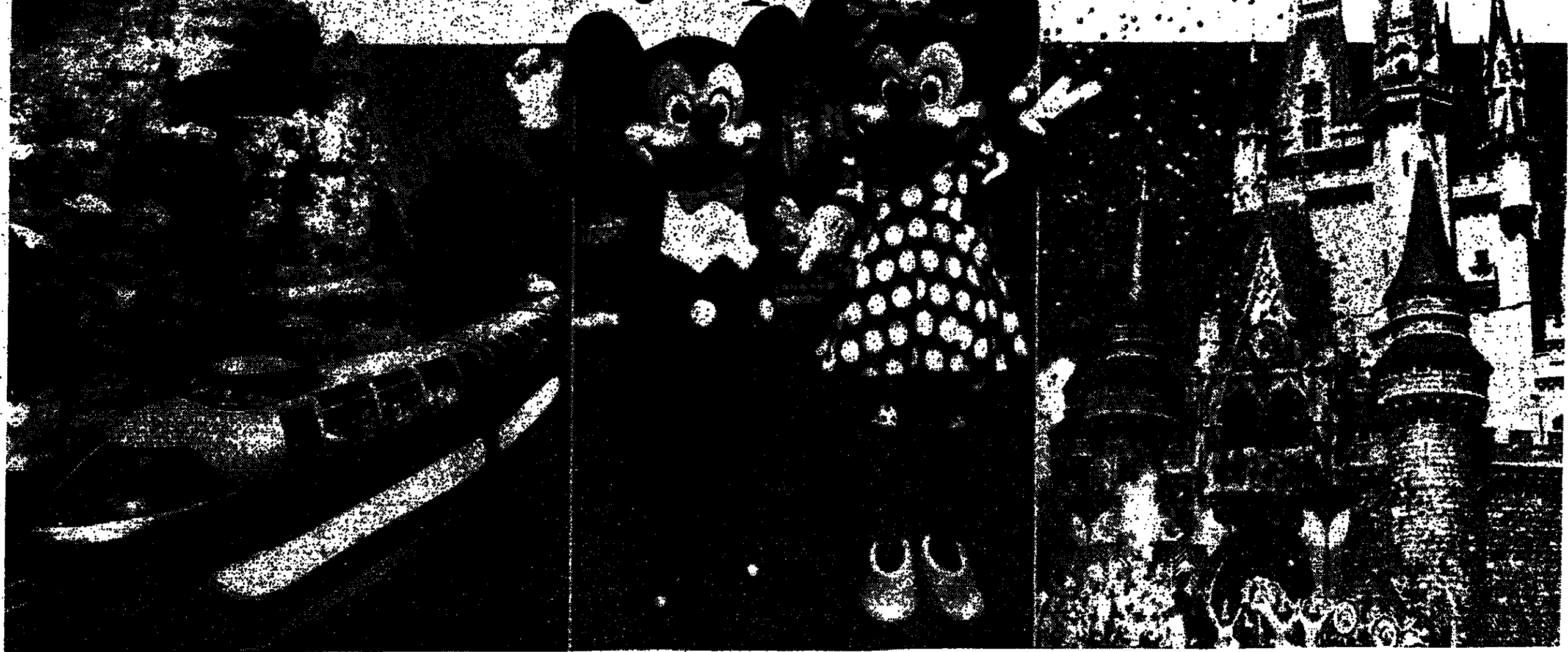
The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Purchas, Mr Justice Jupp and Mr Justice Bingham) so held on November 30, when considering appeals against sentences imposed at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Sutcliffe, QC) for conspiring to contravene the provisions of section 38(1) of the Finance Act 1972, and being knowingly concerned in taking steps with a view to the fraudulent evasion of value-added tax.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said that although the maximum term of imprisonment for the offences was wholly inadequate in view of the massive criminality involved, the effect of adding sentences in default of payment to the maximum terms was indefensible.

The making of a criminal bankruptcy order gave injured parties a comprehensive and far-reaching means of obtaining satisfaction and it was inappropriate in the present case to impose fines alongside a criminal bankruptcy order for over £14 million specifying the Customs and Excise as the injured party.

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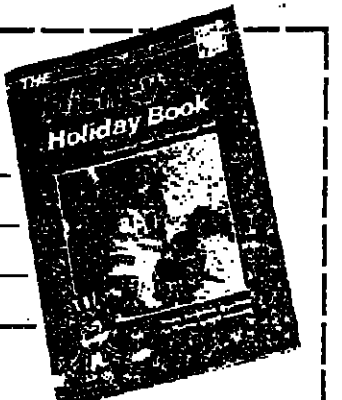
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# NZ openers give a brilliant display

England made a magnificent start to the second Test match here yesterday when accurate spin bowling by Pocock and Edmonds caused India's main batsmen to falter. Compensation for England's loss of the toss came in the capture of six Indian wickets by tea-time. In the final period of play, though, India staged a recovery through Kapil Dev and Kirmanni and the score was 208 for six by the close.

More than one Indian batsman was guilty of an indiscreet stroke, but nothing should distract from the persistent support shown by the two English spinners, who were superbly supported in the field. Both Pocock and Edmonds were able to keep a posse of close fieldsmen within three yards of the bat as they bowled with masterly precision and guile. The much debated pitch has not yet deteriorated and the two English bowlers wore down the Indian batsmen with slight as with anything else. There is no doubt, though, that the ball was a little too much for the match.

Covans, in his first two spells, and Ellison helped contain the Indians, but if the batting was sometimes gritty, the cricket was never less than absorbing. Sadly the pessimism beforehand about the attendance proved only too correct. There were barely 5,000 people watching the game, with several factors influencing the low turnout. The first was the on-day cricket and the memory, perhaps, of tedious past Test matches here, sharing some of the responsibility. Once again, though, the match was televised locally all day and this is something that the Indian board have to change if they wish to retain the big figure of 100,000 spectators.

Kapil Dev and Kirmani, who came together just before tea with India 140 for six, have been in 95 minutes so far and added 68 runs which could prove crucial in the game's later stages. Both men survived hard chances and had moments of good fortune, but the great depth of batting in this Indian side was again underlined. A decision by England to take the new ball as soon as it became available in the closing session failed to bring them the breakthrough they sought. The first hour today will be immor-

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a cricket match. A batsman in white is in the middle of a powerful swing, hitting the ball with his bat. A wicketkeeper in white is crouched behind the stumps, ready to catch the ball. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a large crowd.

**Taking flight: David Gower leans to avoid the danger of Kapil Dev in full flow**

ant if England are to retain their hopes of winning this match and level the series. Another setback for England after tea was an injured wrist for Robinson in the field. An X-ray examination disclosed no fracture but his arm is badly bruised.

England" decided against bringing in Marks and kept the same side which played in the first Test. India changed Kapdev's new-ball partner by giving a first cap to Prabhakar, primarily a swing bowler, and dropping Chetan Sharma, whose pace did not trouble England at Bombay. Any elation Gavaskar felt at ending a lengthy sequence of failures with the toss must have been tempered with annoyance at his own dismissal in the second over. He was replaced by third-batter, which left him late, and was caught behind as he pushed forward.

Vengsarkar never looked at ease against Cowans. In the fast bowler's third over, Vengsarkar ducked into a ball that did not lift as much as he expected and

was struck on the helmet. A long delay followed while the covering which protects the temple and left ear was replaced. Shortly afterwards Vengsarkar made a hash of an intended hook against Cowans and Cowdrey, running back over his shoulder, narrowly failed to take what would have been a brilliant catch at deep square leg. The game was little more than an hour old when both England spinners were first in action.

There were early rewards too, for both of them. In Pocock's second over, Gaekwad gave him the charge, missed, and the ball went off a boot for four leg byes. He learned no lesson and next ball again went forward, this time to drive, and was bowled. Five minutes before lunch, Vengsarkar misjudged Edmond's flight as he tried to drive, the ball bounced higher than most and Downton stumped him.

Pecock bowled with splendid control and his close fieldsmen, a silly point, two short legs and a short mid 'on, were never

endangered. India passed 100 in the 45th over.

Patil straight-drove Edmonds for a cracking four, but he was then out to an appalling stroke. He thrust his left leg down the wicket, aimed a dreadful-looking pull-cum-sweep and skied the ball high into the air. Pocock at midwicket had a long time to wait and almost misjudged the catch but finally held it, as he sagged to the ground. The fourth wicket had added 61

Ten minutes later, Shastri played a similarly ill-chosen stroke against Pocock. He tried to pull a ball on the off; stump and dragged it to midwicket, where Fowler took a skimming catch with calm judgement. On the stroke of tea, Amarnath was out when he pushed forward at Pocock and Gower took a bat-pad catch at silly point. At tea Pocock's figures were 18-3-39-3, a remarkable performance.

Kapil Dev had begun with several daring sweeps and he was 15 and the total 149 when Potock valiantly risked injury

Half an hour after tea England took the new ball, as soon as it was due in the 75th over, with the Indian total 168 for six. Kirmani had to fend off one awkward ball from Cowans and the batsman was fortunate. It landed safely, another short ball from Cowans was hooked for six by Kirmani. After nine overs with the new ball had cost 37 runs, Edmonds was brought back, but England were unable

10 separate the pair.	
INDIA: Post-Analysis	
S M Gervais & Downton & Ellison	1
A Gaskard & Pocock	2
S M Gervais & Downton & Ellison	3
M M Parnham & Gower & Pocock	4
S M Parnham & Pocock & Edwards	5
S M Parnham & Pocock & Edwards	6
S M Parnham & Pocock & Edwards	7
Kapil Dev not out	8
75 M Krunal not out	9
Excess (b-b 5)	10
Total (8 wickets)	599
N Prabhakar, S M Yadav and S M Gervais	1
FALL-OF-WICKETS: 1-3, 5-55, 6-88, 4-128, 5-131, 6-149.	
BOWLING: Gervais 15-3-50-4, Ellison 15-3-40-2, Pocock 15-3-55-2, Pocock 15-4-55-2, Gilling 2-5-6-0.	
ENGLELAND: G Fowler, N Y Robinson, M G Gilling, A Lank, B Gower, C S Comber, P M Parnham, R B Edmonds, R B Edmonds, Pocock, N M Cowins.	

Karachi (AFP) — New Zealand were poised to take a first-innings lead over Pakistan at close of play on the third day of the third and final Test at the National Stadium here yesterday.

The tourists were first in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 328 all-out. The highlights of the day's play were brilliant performances by Wright and Reid, the left-handed batsmen, who raised the possibility of a surprise win for New Zealand to salvage the tour after their first two Test matches and Pakistan's 3-1 victory in the one-day series.

John Wright, who was unbeaten for 81 overnight, reached his fourth Test century, and John Reid was unlucky to be caught when he was only three runs short of his hundred. At the close Jeff Crowe was 99 not out and Coney, who

The New Zealand opener stayed on at the crease for 235 minutes and struck 17 boundaries and a magnificent six. His second wicket partnership with Reid was the longest in the world, lasting 240 minutes, but the stand between Reid and Martin Crowe for the third was even more fruitful, adding 95 before Crowe was given out leg-before by Shakoor Rana, the umpire, for 45 in the last over before

Crowe was dissatisfied with the decision and stayed at the crease for a while. Television showed a slow motion replay several times and experts who were consulted gave the view that the benefit of the doubt should have been given to the batsman rather than the bowler.

JAGGERS: New Zealand 328	
JAGGERS: First XI 200, Rest 128	
J V Wright, C Ark, Dapet, D B	192
B A Edgar run out	15
J V Ball, C Iphig, C Smith, D	14
J F Braid, C Iphig, C Smith, D	14
J V Crowe not out	35
J V Crowe not out	35
J V Crowe not out	35
Total (for 4 wds)	318
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-163, 3-258	4-292
BOWLING: Azzam Hafiez 20-45-5-3	
Mohamed Nazir 14-4-3-2-0, Iphig Canto 34	
5-11, Wasim Raja 24-6-7-1, Zahoor Ahmed 5-2-1-3-0	

Sultan Andrew, the former Northamptonshire and England wicket-keeper, has decided not to succeed Ken Turner, as the secretary of Northamptonshire.

# Pakistan machine is too fast and clever for Britain

**From Sydney to Karachi**

**Pakistan** .....  
**Great Britain** .....  
 Pakistan reserved their best

display in the Champions Trophy Tournament for the match against Great Britain here yesterday probably because they had a point to prove. Britain had fielded their goalless draw to finish top of the table before going on to win the medal at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The atmosphere was right for Pakistan. They had a host of supporters whose ecstatic acclamations spurred their forwards to greater endeavour. The three men on the inside, Manzoor, Hussain, Hassan Sander and Hanif Khan, were top of the list of foot and cleft with their

For the first 10 minutes Britain looked a little more venturesome

though less inventive. Kerly once hurled himself at a centre from Bhazra but just failed to make contact. Then another shot from Kerly, from a back pass by Potoczny, went astray.

The Pakistan machine began to work more smoothly and in the fifteenth minute an attack initiated by Kaleemullah on the right brought them their first goal. Tahir, the seven-foot Hassan, headed the ball into the net.

Pakistan made nothing of this only shot corner in the first half but six minutes before halftime they struck and accelerated their forwards took play once again into

# Favourites

By Nick

The two clubs who go into the second legs of tonight's Kellogg's Cup semi-finals, holding narrow

That is the task facing both Kingcraft Kingston, who receive a one-point lead, and Vikings who visit John Carr Doncaster in Sheffield (two points to the good). Both Kingston and Vikings have also won league games against their cug opponents.

Doncaster, who followed up last week's two-point defeat with a six-

**More sport**

the British circle where, after a succession of shots which rebounded, Kalamullah finally found the

Britain, coming into the second half with renewed vigour, forced a short-corner from which a stunning shot by Cairall was well saved by the goalkeeper. There followed a slight adjustment in Britain's attack, with Shaw giving way to Cliff and Kerly moving from centre-forward

The Pakistani defence showed signs of panic and conceded a short corner in the fifteenth minute of this period. This gave way to a penalty stroke after Curall's shot was stopped on the line by a defender. Toft and Potter, who seldom miss, scored from the spot to bring Britain back in to the game.

But there was little the British defence could do to stop the Pakistani onslaught and two superb centres by Kaleemullah on the right led to the third and fourth goals by Hanif Khan, both scored with tremendous power and precision.

— All that Britain can hope for now is to beat the Netherlands to win the bronze medal. The Dutch, who defeated Spain 4-0 yesterday, need only a draw.

**PAKISTANE** Shahid Ali Khan, Tauqeer Dawood, Asif Razaullah Khan, Asif Mahmood, Moinuddin Ali, Rashidul Haque, Ayaz Khan, Ahsan Ali Khan, Kaleemullah, Musarraf Hussain, Hassan Sardar, Nasir Khan, Musharraf Hussain (capt), Rafiqul Karim.

**HUNGARY** Bittai-Taylor, R. Czibor, S. Nagy, J. Pottor, O. Fodor, W. McConnall, N. Bartha, J. Papp, R. Csisz, R. Lemay, S. Kari, N. Hughes (capt), M. Lantos.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Pakistan	4	3	1	8	14	6	7
Australia	4	3	1	0	10	6	7
Netherlands	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Great Britain	4	2	0	2	10	10	4
New Zealand	4	0	1	3	5	12	1
Spain	4	0	0	4	4	12	0

## BASKETBALL

## Favourites face struggle

**By Nicholas Harling**

The two clubs who go into the second legs of tonight's Kellogg's Cup semi-finals, holding narrow advantages, know the hardest struggle will be to assert their authority over the opposition for the second time this season, but not the third.

Kingscraft Kingston, who received Cottrills Manchester Giants holding a one-point lead, and Vikings who visit John Carr Doncaster in Sheffield two points to the good. Both Kingston and Vikings have also won league games against their cup opponents.

Doncaster, who followed up last week's two-point defeat with a six-

point loss to Vikings in their first division on Saturday, led at half-time in each game. "After that we just seemed to lose a little something in intensity and composure", Stevens said. Doncaster replace one English guard, Tony Brown, who has a slight ankle strain with another, Mike Davis. Colin Irish, who has strained ankle ligaments which caused him to miss Saturday's fixture, is Vikings' only doubt.

Steve Bontrager, Kingston American player-coach whose team have now defeated Manchester twice by a single point, is fretting on the fitness of his compatriot, Dan Davis, who is having treatment twice a day on an injured knee.

**More sport, pages 24, 25, 26**



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HOCKEY  
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ASKEETBALL  
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port, pages 24, 25

# THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Year gain or loss
1	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
2	1. ICI	
3	2. BHP	
4	3. Anglo	
5	4. Conoco	
6	5. Shell	
7	6. BP	
8	7. British Petroleum	
9	8. British Airways	
10	9. British Telecom	
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WEEKLY DIVIDEND
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

## BRITISH FUNDS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch/y	Price %	P/E
1	100.00	95.00	1. ICI	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
2	100.00	95.00	2. BHP	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
3	100.00	95.00	3. Anglo	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
4	100.00	95.00	4. Conoco	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
5	100.00	95.00	5. Shell	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
6	100.00	95.00	6. BP	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
7	100.00	95.00	7. British Petroleum	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
8	100.00	95.00	8. British Airways	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
9	100.00	95.00	9. British Telecom	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
10	100.00	95.00	10. British Airways	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
11	100.00	95.00	11. British Airways	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
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100	100.00	95.00	100. British Airways	100.00	5.00	5.00	10.00

## BANKS DISCOUNT

Low	High	Company	Price	Chg	Price %	P/E
138	140	Alcoa	138	-2	78.0	8.4
139	140	Boat	139	0	78.0	8.4
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197	140	Boat	197	0	78.0	8.4
198	140	Boat	198	0	78.0	8.4
199	140	Boat	199	0	78.0	8.4
200	140	Boat	200	0	78.0	8.4







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- Two manufacturing plants
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- An equal opportunity employer
- £745 million exports in 1983
- £146 million invested in UK in 1983

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possess a university degree and a qualification in social work. Substantial experience is necessary at high level in organisations concerned with the personal social services.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 11 January 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alconbury Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: G/6415/3.

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## HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

## At-home guide to languages

"The only way to learn a language is by going to the country, and living there," I was told by one teacher of 12 years' experience. Most of his colleagues broadly agree, but unfortunately this is not always a practical or possible method. Businessmen are in a particularly invidious position in this respect since, while the requirement for additional languages becomes more urgent, they have less and less time in which to learn them, and a year's sabbatical to learn Mandarin or Urdu is usually out of the question.

There are many options open to the busy executive. For the majority a crash course of individual tuition followed by frequent use of the language (it's important to keep practising) seems to work best. Companies like Linguarama, Language Studies Limited and The Executive Language Centre cater for this market. All these schools, using the famous "Berlitz" inspired "direct method" (only the target language is used during tuition) stress the need for a knowledge of the grammar and structure of the language, although this is usually very informally taught.

All stress that the language learning process is highly personal, and structure their courses around the individual.

In contrast to Linguarama, and Language Studies Limited, The Executive Language Centre is a small school set up nine years ago and now run by Mrs. Arend-Osborn, an enterprising Frenchwoman and originally herself a language teacher. They never have more than 10 students.

## Direct method pack

Tuition is limited to six hours a day, any more is self-teaching. Mrs. Arend-Osborn says: "She is also unenthusiastic about two people learning together explaining that it is no less expensive since the whole process takes longer. John Burditt of Linguarama strongly advises husbands and wives against learning together. Apparently familiarity breeds, if not contempt, then at least a lack of the polite patience of comparative strangers."

Of the three schools only Language Studies uses Video as a teaching aid, and other aids used depend to a large extent on the teacher (or teachers, both Linguarama and Language Studies give you a new teacher for the second half of the day). Another company, Stillitron, sells a compre-

Clare Raffael discusses the choices and courses available to the busy executive who needs to learn another language

hensive system which combines a number of hours of individual tuition with a kind of home learning pack. This consists of a set of cassettes and an illustrated "direct method" publication which is used in conjunction with a "world-patented, nickel-plated, printed-circuit response-analyser."

This is actually quite a simple and effective device which enables you to go through the multiple-choice questions in the book without having to go through the awkward business of looking up the answer, and as many times as you need. The gadget flashes alarmingly red for a wrong answer and green for a correct one. The home learning pack alone costs £390. Individual tuition costs vary dramatically from school to school, and it really is worth shopping around with an eye to cost as well as suitability.

Group learning is a cheaper alternative. It may be less convenient and slow learners can hold up a group, but it does introduce an additional competitive motivation and gives the student a standard against which to measure his progress. The BOL 450 beginners residential courses run by the London Chamber of Commerce are a good example. They are based on a teaching technique first developed by Professor Boland putting the group situation to advantage as much as possible and involving frequent changes of activity to maintain concentration and interest. In six days most students will have picked up a basic vocabulary of 450 words. Courses are run at regular intervals throughout the year and cost £595 exclusive of VAT.

Individuals who must foot their own bills may find it difficult to afford these commercial rates. For those who wish to learn German there are the subsidised courses run by the Goethe-Institute, based in major cities throughout England. I tried a Saturday morning course which was excellent and very lively. The Institute also runs evening courses, but, being in and out of the house after a hard day's work is difficult. The intense courses are probably the best.

and the Institute runs four week courses throughout the year which cost £60. Other cultural institutes and societies run similarly subsidised courses.

Some very good courses are run by the Polytechnics at a thoroughly reasonable price. Their courses are impeccable of course, a point worth noting since the commercial sector of the field has earned a reputation, less true now, of being a happy hunting ground for less than reputable outfits. The Polytechnic of the South Bank has an impressive four stage method using a language laboratory, video cassettes, a micro computer and individual sessions with a tutor. For much of the time the student is teaching himself with the help of machines. This makes the system more flexible and effective but it does require discipline and determination.

Curiously, none of the commercial schools uses micro computers which are an effective aid to learning, particularly for business users. Employed ILEA residents pay £50 for 100 hours attendance taken within a year of enrolment. Unemployed people and pensioners who are resident in the ILEA pay £1.

## Tipping the scales

Finally, for those with a basic knowledge which just needs brushing up so that they can confidently ask a taxi driver to take them to a petrol station, give directions, and then know how much to tip, the BBC Get By tapes and books are the instant solution. They cost between £5 and £10 and are available by mail order or in bookshops.

As executive travel increases, and overseas markets become more competitive, languages as a skill will become more important. It may be becoming easier to manage with English only, but due to this very fact, knowledge of a language will tip the scales in the favour of the job candidate, the salesman or the manager.

Information available from the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research (CILT); (01-486 8221) and ask for information guide 8.

For details of business language courses, send a SAE to: Careers Horizons, The Times, PO Box 7, London WC1X 8EZ.

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The successful candidate will have proven ability in executive administration in which attention to detail will have been important. Experience in office organization and method is required, experience in computers and book-keeping is an advantage.

The ability to communicate with people and a good sense of humour are vital attributes.

Application forms available from:

The Hockey Association, 15 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0DD or 01-387 8315 before 19th December.

Completed forms will be considered on 3rd January 1985.

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If you think you qualify, please send C.V. or telephone for application form to Personnel Manager, Multipoint Limited, Pine Road, North, Fildes, Cradock Estate, TELFORD, TW16 0TW. Tel. No. 01-890 8132.

You'll have to be good to be considered.

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Applications setting out details of your career to date, and showing how you match our requirements, should reach us by 10 January 1985 and be addressed to:

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# First coal comes up from the Yorkshire seams

From Peter Davenport, Manton Colliery, Yorkshire

In the pit entrance road, pickets had strung coloured Christmas streamers in bare branches of a tree, but it was the National Coal Board that had reason for seasonal cheer as coal was brought to the surface at Manton colliery yesterday. It was the first coal to be produced in Yorkshire since the start of the pit strike.

The 200 tons cut by the day shift working the PO 1's face in the Parkgate seam may seem insignificant to a colliery that normally turns out about a million tons a year. But to the protagonists in the dispute, it was an important psychological development.

To the board, which also announced the resumption of production at a second Yorkshire pit, it was successful second stage in its campaign to build on the drift back to work, its importance evidenced by elaborate publicity for the first day of production.

To the Manton strikers who have seen two-thirds of their number abandon the dispute, it was another body blow on a cold and fogbound morning.

But to the men cutting the coal 1,000 metres below ground, it was just a normal day's work.

Reg Hopcroft, his face still blackened with dust, was asked how he felt when the first nugget dropped on the conveyor belt taking coal to the surface. "I never thought about it," he said. "I was busy shovelling."

Mr Hopcroft was one of 2,936 out of the area's 54,000 workforce who crossed picket lines.

Preparation work to resume production at Manton began several weeks ago. Coal was also produced yesterday at the Riccall site in the Selby colliery as a side product of driving new underground tunnels.

Coal board officials also expect Kibblesworth colliery, Britain's biggest pit, and Wistow, also in the Selby field, to resume production within weeks.

But it was at Manton that the Coal board concentrated its

publicity efforts. The pit with a total workforce of just under 1,100 is in the board's south Yorkshire area although geographically it lies across the border in Nottinghamshire.

It is the workplace of the two miners who began the first legal actions to get the strike declared unofficial. Mr Kenneth Foulstone and Mr Robert Taylor return to the High Court today in new legal moves to have a receiver put in charge of the Yorkshire union's affairs.

Mr Foulstone was among the 420 day shift men at Manton yesterday and later he said: "Of course I am very pleased the lads have worked hard to get that coal. These men came back to work not because of intimidation or violence which had been used to keep them out, but under their own steam."

"They are not happy with Arthur Scargill's handling of the strike and I believe the mood in the country is that the lads have gone out of it and the men have no belly for the strike any longer."

But for most of the workers yesterday it was not a day for celebration: they were simply back doing their jobs. But the presence of 10 police vehicles in the pit yard and the mesh protected coaches to take the miners home proved that life is still far from normal.

Manton has lost some 800,000 tons of coal production, valued at about £30m, since the strike began and the Yorkshire colliery has lost 25 million tons.

The pit manager Mr Joe Armistead, who spent much of

yesterday morning underground, said: "Do I really need to say how I feel about restarting coal production? It is the reason we come to work, it is our normal job."

But Mr Frank Underwood, treasurer of the local NUM branch, said: "Of course it's very disappointing that so many men have gone back and it was inevitable that sooner or later they would be able to start producing coal again. But it doesn't lessen our resolve to carry on."

It's disappointing... but it doesn't lessen our resolve - striker



Coal faces: Four Manton miners emerge after producing Yorkshire's first coal in nine months.



The prize: Underground workers bring up the first coals.

## Thatcher backs BBC advertising

Continued from page 1

and suggested that the Government make social services departments responsible for paying for their licences.

The licence fee is particularly good value for the elderly because they watch about 20 per cent more than average.

The corporation has asked for the rise, £46 to £65 for colour and £15 to £18 for black and white, to be pegged for three years.

The increase would pay for a modest extension of television and radio services, providing a low-cost daytime programme service on BBC 1, enhancing the quality of peak-time drama, entertainment, news and factual programmes, and build 10 new local radio stations.

Mr Alasdair Milne, Director-General of the BBC, said that the last settlement, which was £7 less than requested, meant the corporation had been unable to improve the range and quality of programmes, and narrow the gap between commercial television pay rates and its own.

## Baby of 10 months gets pacemaker

Continued from page 1

A fracture of a steroid preparation was made to cover the tip of the wire and stop any fibrous retractive tissue developing round the area where contact with the heart was made.

The pacemaker, flown from the United States, works by sending a five-volt impulse to the heart.

Although programmed to operate at 90 pulses a minute, it only delivers an impulse if needed. For as well as stimulating the heart, the lead also monitors its activity and tells the microprocessor in the pacemaker if the heart misses a beat.

The instrument should last for five or six years, depending on how much demand is made upon it.

To allow for Serene's growth the lead going to the heart - the other one needed to complete a circuit is attached to tissue close to the pacemaker - includes an extra loop that will stretch as she gets older.

## Letter from Tripoli

### Tough justice from the 'lord mayor'

Sheikh Saad Shaban is a loquacious man with a far-fetched sense of humour and the confidence of a lord mayor - which is, in effect, what he is. After all, his "Islamic Unification" militia controls almost all of Tripoli, its black and green banners snapping in the sea breeze above the customs house, above the post office, above the town hall, above every crossroads in town.

The sheikh's men helped burn the Lebanese flag on Independence Day. They have told the local Christian schools to teach the Koran to their Muslim pupils. They raise their own taxes around the port. And they administer some rather tough justice as well. Kidnapping the occasional Christian, demanding - sometimes successfully - the execution of rival gunmen.

In short, the good burghers of Tripoli pay quite a lot of attention to Sheikh Saad, for he is the sort of city father one disregards at one's peril.

His brown robes, grey beard and red and white turban give him a scholarly air. Indeed, he has an impressive academic curriculum vitae - Al Azhar University in Cairo, Lebanese University in Baghdad, visiting the shrine of Ali at Najaf and meeting Ayatollah Khomeini in Qum.

You might be forgiven for thinking Sheikh Saad was a Shia Muslim but he is in fact a Sunni, leading a Sunni Muslim revolution that is unique in the Arab world even if it is restricted by the ring road that cuts through the eastern suburbs of Tripoli. Last month, he threatened to blow up bits of New York - especially the skyscrapers - because of United States support for Israel.

"I threatened the Americans, who came with the [battleship] New Jersey to shell our cities and villages and who killed Muslims," he says.

As for matters nearer home - the kidnapping of Christians, for example - the Sheikh is equally unapologetic. The Christians Phalangists have been turning back Muslims from the city who wanted to visit Beirut. "The Phalangists kidnapped 40 people so we have detained 20 in two days in order to put pressure on the Phalangists to release those who were kidnapped," he says. "Sixteen of the twenty are from the Lebanese Army

and four are civilians - they are from areas where most people support the Phalangists."

As for executions - why, the Sheikh's hands appear to be clean. Those unfortunate shot to death through the back of the head, he tells you, were responsible for a massacre in the suburb of Malkiyyeh, a mass killing in which Sunni Muslims met their death. It was the Pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party which shot their own men for the crime after the Sunni militia had requested their execution.

Indeed, justice seems close to Sheikh Saad's heart. "Tripoli," he says, "is a town which believes in the rights of all its people because security and justice come from the very heart of Islam - to which we urge the people to adhere. The Christians live with us without any problems. They haven't been driven out of their homes as the Muslims were by the Phalangists."

Father Anthony Shadiak, director of the Christian Antonin School just outside Tripoli's ancient port, has a different view. "Of Islamic justice," Sheikh Saad's militia have asked him, ever so politely, to teach the Koran.

"They are putting pressure on us to teach Islamic studies in our Christian schools," he says. "They told our leaders, 'Since you have Muslim students, you have to teach Islamic studies if you want to live in a Muslim town.' We received two letters from them, but we have not answered them."

In a city whose Muslims account for 85 per cent of the population, however, only 95 of Father Shadiak's 550 pupils are Christians. So perhaps Sheikh Saad has a point. "But," teachers are Christians - so how can we teach Islam? Father Shadiak replies. "If the children want to learn the Koran, why don't they go to another school?"

And so Tripoli slips further into a miniature sectarian state. "The Christians have rights and duties like all other citizens," Sheikh Saad says. "If they co-exist as good citizens, then we will stay the same. We have been neighbours for the past centuries. But if they change and start conspiring with the Phalangists against us, then we will be obliged to treat them as our enemies."

Robert Fisk

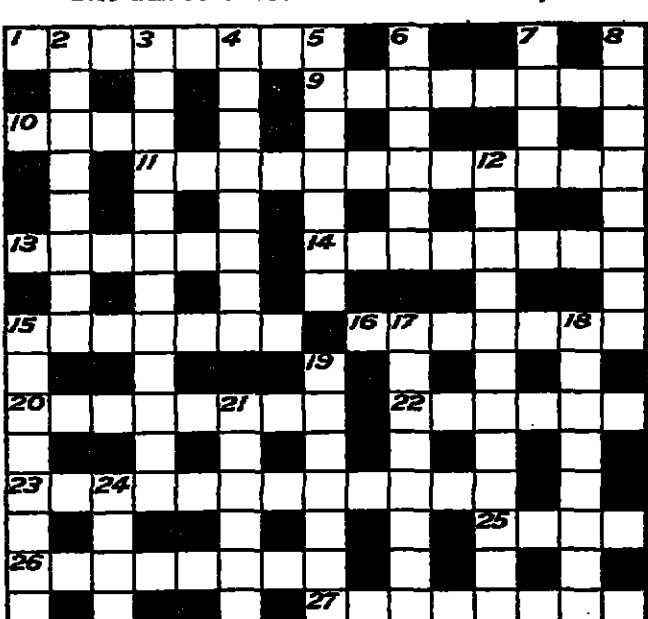
## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
Prince Andrew attends the British charity premiere of the film *Dune* at the Empire Theatre, Leicester Sq, 7.30.  
Princess Margaret, President, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, attends a charity evening at the Olympia International Showjumping Championships, 6.50.  
Princess Alexandra attends a charity performance of *The Adventures of Robin Hood* in aid of the Mental Health Foundation, Wood Street Police Station, London, EC2, 5.50.

**Music**  
Cello recital by Colin Carr, Holwell Music Room, Oxford, 8.  
Concert by the Argyle String Quartet, Central United Reformed Church, Argyle St, Bath, 7.30.  
Concert by the Medici String Quartet, Lauderston University, 7.30.  
Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Colston Hall, Bristol, 7.30.  
**Christmas carols**  
King's School carol service, Canterbury Cathedral, 8.  
Peter Symonds' College carol

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,610



- ACROSS**
- Method of quantifying gravel (8).
  - Command a military formation prominent in the press (8).
  - Fashionable surround for colonial's statue (4).
  - Old, true-sounding stories about a confirmation (12).
  - Poles on foot engage in contest on board (6).
  - Libertine unwilling to have a large port (8).
  - Harassed newspaperman forcibly enlisted (7).
  - Spent a long time on the journey (7).
  - Noted precision of supporting actors (8).
  - It's not often gunners display trust (6).
  - Quarrelsome old union leaders in various vessels (12).
  - Begin a voyage in Greater Manchester, say (4).
  - Quote Lenin wrongly? Not in speaking persuasively (8).
  - Alumnus at school, keeping an eye on things (8).
- DOWN**
- No trace, possibly, of this old grandeur (8).
  - Recovering to study the fragrance of the valley (12).
  - Played by Lawrence, maybe, in flimsy clothing (8).
  - Sharper's piece of equivocation, no doubt (7).
  - A degree for Gail, we hear, lucky thing (6).
  - But he doesn't fly from Walldid willingly (4).
  - Sleep a number all over the place for the tall thin chap (8).
  - Law-breaker upset strangers? So right (12).
  - He may talk down through being out of reach (8).
  - When we may be landed to publicize wines (8).
  - Food substance or horse in ancient language? Quite the opposite (8).
  - Reminder of fellows in New York Opera's "Ring" (7).
  - One who scarpers from a shelter? (6).
  - Japanese drama satisfactory for the recess (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,609



### New books - paperback

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

**FICTION**  
A Canticle for Leibowitz, by Walter Miller Jun (Black Swan, £3.50).  
Brend X Fickson, A Parody Anthology, edited by William Zaretsky (Picador, £2.95).  
Don Bussio, by Zulfikar Ghose (Black Swan, £2.95).  
Like Birds, Like Flashes, by Ruth Prendergast (Granada, £1.95).

**NON-FICTION**  
Black Lamb and Grey Falcon, by Rebecca West (Penguin, £2.95).  
Brend X Fickson, A Parody Anthology, edited by William Zaretsky (Picador, £2.95).  
In My Mind's Eye, by Michael Redgrave (Corgi, £2.50).  
Seven Days Manifesto and Lampbrushes, by Tristan Tzara (John Calder, £3.95).  
The Incredible Voyage, by Tristan Jones (Hodder, £2.95).  
The Selected Letters of Anton Chekhov, translated by Sidi K. Laderer, edited by Lilian Hellman (Picador, £3.50).

**Talks, lectures**  
Norway through the seasons, by Horace Baxter, Carnegie Hall, Westborough, Bolton, 7.30.  
Art in Mexico, by Morris Grassie, Polidra Mill, Haddington, Lothian, 8.

**General**  
Christmas fair, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, 10 to 8.  
Exhibitions in progress  
Drawings by Frank Causa, 1755-1828, Fitzwilliam Museum, University, Trumpington St, Cambridge, Tues to Sat 2 to 5, Sun 2.15 to 5. (ends Dec 27).  
Paintings, drawings and photographs by Joan Eardley, City Art Centre, 2 Market St, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5. (ends Dec 15).  
Revolutionary Glasgow, People's Palace Museum, Glasgow Green, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5. (ends Dec 31).  
Paintings by Helen Pollock, MacLaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5. (ends Dec 21).  
Theatre designs work by John Byrne, MacLaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5. (ends Jan 26).  
Views of Stirling: Etchings by Mary-Louise Colours, Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, 40 Albert Place, Stirling, Wed to Sun 2 to 5. (ends Dec 30).  
Illustrations of Antiquity, paintings and drawings of ancient cities and antiquities, Randolph Gallery, Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St, Oxford, Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4. (ends Jan 31).  
Elements of Nature: Pictures of Earth, Air and Water, Elizabethan Exhibition Gallery, Brook St, Walford, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30, and 1.0 to 5. (ends Dec 22).  
Tradition and Renewal: Contemporary art in the German Democratic Republic, Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4.30. (until Jan 19).  
Dinosaur Exhibition, Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 11 to 5. (until Jan 6).

**75th Anniversary exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery, Chester Road, Deeside, Mon to Thurs 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5. (until Jan 30).**

**Anniversaries**  
Births: William Drummond of Hawthornden, poet, Hawthornden, near Edinburgh, 1553; Heinrich Heine, poet, Düsseldorf, 1797.  
Deaths: Donatello, sculptor, Florence 1466; Samuel Johnson, London 1784; Wassily Kandinsky, abstract painter, Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1944.

### Roads

The Midlands: A461: Roadworks on Wood Green Rd at Walsby, 10 to 8. S of junction 9 of M6. A12: Temporary signals between Lowestoft and Yoxford at Wrentham. A16: Temporary signals from Kings Lynn to Downham Market at West Witch.

Wales and West: A494: Temporary lights on the Donagellau to Bala Rd during working hours between Dollicellau and Rhydymain, A294. Roadworks between Penryn and Helston, from Hemis to Rame.

The north: A1: Roadworks at Liphall, North Charlton, N of Alnwick.

Scotland: A93: Roadworks in Main St, Bridgend between 9am and 4pm. City of Glasgow: Lane closures in Union St, between Gordon St and Argyle St.

Information supplied by the AA.

### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Local Government Bill, committee, second day. Lords (3): Valerie Mary Hill and Alan Monk (Marriage Enabling) Bill, second reading. Debate on EEC finance.

### Woodland report

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, in a new report, calls for a doubling of the amount of broadleaved woodland in Britain by planting trees on areas now producing surplus food.

It also calls for an immediate ban on the removal of woodland for farming or the replacement of broadleaved trees with conifers to protect wildlife. RSPB Report: *Broadleaves in Britain - the RSPB View*. Contact (0767) 80551 or (031) 556 5624/9043.

### The pound

	Bank	Spot	Bank
Australia \$	2.25	2.25	2.25
Canada \$	77.40	77.40	77.40
Denmark kr	13.78	13.78	13.78
France F	11.72	11.72	11.72
Germany DM	5.76	5.76	5.76
Italy Lira	204.00	204.00	204.00
Japan Yen	239.00	239.00	239.00
Netherlands Gld	4.25	4.25	4.25
Portugal Esc	200.00	200.00	200.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	10.36	10.36	10.36
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.00	2.00
USA \$	1.54	1.54	1.54
Yugoslavia Dnr	320.00	320.00	320.00

Retail Price Index: 257.7.  
London: The FT index closed down 7.8 at 252.3.

### The Papers

The Daily Star, commenting on the Tories' first election in 1970 their crusade against public spending was worthwhile, long overdue and popular. Carrying it on with the Tories or no Tories, the consequences are unjust and heartless.

The Sun, commenting on the decision by Nottinghamshire miners to vote to convert their own area into a quasi-independent union, says: "The Nottingham men believe that if they can't replace their militant masters with moderates, the only answer is to wave goodbye."

The paper adds: "Let's hope that other moderate coalfields will follow Nottingham out of Scargill's crazy camp."

The Daily Mirror says: "There is a simple question the Tory faithful of Southgate should ask themselves before they go out to vote today. 'Why on earth should I vote Conservative?'"

The paper adds: "In fact, there can hardly be a single person in Southgate who has any reason whatsoever to vote Tory today."

### Forces' greetings

The latest recommended date for sending Christmas greetings to HM Forces in the South Atlantic and Northern Ireland via the special free aerogramme service is Friday, December 14. Further details and aerogramme forms are available on request at post offices.

### Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play the money market. Add these together to determine your weekly portfolio return. If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won tonight or a share of the prize money shared by all winners and must claim your prize by instructed bank.

**How to play**  
Telephone The Times Portfolio editor line 0254-55272 between 10.00 am and 5.30 pm, on the day your weekly dividend matches the Times Portfolio dividend. The editor will call you and ask you to confirm your details.

You must have your card with you when you telephone. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the editor's office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims. A form for claiming a weekly dividend is available in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not to be used. The winning of these 2 and 3 has been awarded from earlier winners for duplicate purposes. The game that is not shared and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

### Weather

A depression to the W of Cornwall will move slowly N into S Ireland and a trough of low pressure will cross most areas from the SW.

London, SE, E, central N, NE England, East Angles, E Midlands: Misty at first with a few fog patches chiefly over high ground; then rather cloudy with outbreaks of rain spreading from the W later; wind E or SE moderate or fresh; max temp 9C (48F).

Central England, W Midlands: Misty at first rather cloudy with rain in places; wind E or SE moderate or fresh; max temp 10C (50F).

South East, E Midlands, E Angles, E Midlands: Rain at first, then mainly moderate or fresh; wind E or SE fresh or strong; max temp 10C (50F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyl, Northern Ireland: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain; wind SE moderate or fresh becoming E moderate; max temp 9C (48F).

SE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rain, a little sun in places; wind S or SE light or moderate; max temp 7C (45F).

Unsettled, light frost and some fog patches; near normal temperatures.

**SEA PASSAGES:** S North Sea, S of Dover: Wind S, veering SW fresh or strong; rain at first, then mainly moderate or fresh; wind SE moderate or fresh; max temp 9C (48F).

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